

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

THE RIGHT OF TRANSLATION AND REPRODUCING ILLUSTRATIONS IS RESERVED.

No. 598.—VOL. IX.

LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1866.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED 4D.

THE REFORM QUESTION.

THE Reform question is evidently not to be allowed to sleep until next Session. It had been surmised that the present Ministry, thinking it useless to bring forward again the rejected Reform Bill of 1859, would, from consciousness of its inability to content Parliament on this head, bring forward no reform bill at all. It will be forced, however, if not to propose, at least to discuss, a reform bill of some kind; and it may find it to its advantage to introduce one of its own making. There seems to be a general agreement as to one point—the necessity of enlarging the constituencies: only, each party would like to increase the number of voters in such a manner as to increase the number of its own supporters. Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli would have little objection to see Parliament and our system of Parliamentary representation “reformed,” if they were quite sure that the work of reform could be carried out according to their ideas. Probably no measure could be devised by which the number of Conservative voters could, as a matter of certainty, be increased; but such a measure as that of 1859 would, at least, not have given votes to any large number of extreme Radicals. The worst of that reform bill was that it was due, not to any

spontaneous desire on the part of the Conservatives to alter the existing system of representation, but only to a strong wish to keep in office, which, unless they brought in a reform bill of some kind, they felt was impossible. Of course, a measure for limiting the electoral privilege to persons possessing three hundred a year in land would, in one sense, be a reform bill; but this is not the sort of reform bill that we must expect to hear discussed next Session. It will be a bill for lowering the suffrage; and on this question—whether the suffrage shall be lowered or not—the Conservative Ministry must stand or fall.

The recent meetings, or reform demonstrations, as they are called, will, no doubt, have a powerful effect in inducing Parliament to give the reform question its serious attention. The unstatesmanlike argument that because there has been no agitation in favour of Parliamentary reform, therefore, no legislation on the subject need take place, has been used, too long, and has helped, no doubt, to cause the agitation which is now only just beginning, and which may attain very formidable proportions before Parliament meets. The theory that no concessions are to be made until they have been demanded with some show of violence seems to us a very

dangerous one; but those politicians who argued that working men did not want votes because they did not insist upon having them, must abandon that argument now.

Probably no active politician, in opposing or in proposing measures of reform, has any idea that the House of Commons now represents, or that it ought to represent in any very perfect manner, the intellect, property, and labouring power of the whole country. Labour, under the existing system, is not represented in Parliament at all. Under the system of universal suffrage recommended, directly or indirectly, at the Birmingham meeting, it may be feared that nothing else would be represented—so large a majority would working men form in nearly all the constituencies. Something between these two extremes ought in justice to be adopted. If it really be a hardship and a grievance, as Mr. Bright maintains, not to have a vote, it is, at least, a hardship and a grievance that is not confined to any one section of society. If, on the other hand, the working class in general is not, as Mr. Lowe argues, sufficiently educated and sufficiently trained to habits of self-control to be intrusted with the suffrage, even then the enfranchisement of the upper portion of this class alone could scarcely be attended with any bad effect.



THE COLLISION BETWEEN THE BRUISER AND HASWELL STEAM-SHIPS.

Oddly enough, both Mr. Lowe and Mr. Bright are great peace men; and one of Mr. Lowe's chief arguments against universal suffrage is, that a mob government would always be ready, on the slightest provocation, to plunge the country into war, knowing that the burden of it, in the shape of taxes, would chiefly fall upon the richer portion of the community; while Mr. Bright, on his side, holds that when the people, in the widest sense of the word, have the full control of the public purse, they will not be so foolish as to waste the public money on military expenditure. If every workman in England happened to be a Quaker, then Mr. Bright's opinion would, no doubt, be perfectly sound. But, as far as our own observation goes, we should say that the middle and trading class, in England as in all other countries, is the most pacific, and the working class the most pugnacious. Mr. Bright must well remember the enthusiasm of the working classes for the Crimean War, which was popular, and justly popular, because it was a war against despotism. Mr. Bright's own constituents were in favour of the war against China, and Mr. Bright cannot have forgotten what a breach the attitude of the English people on this question caused between them and their protectors among the Manchester party. During the Polish insurrection it was only at the meetings of working men that it was proposed to assist the Poles by active military intervention; and it was a deputation of working men that waited upon Lord Palmerston and distinctly begged him to declare war.

We do not say that the working men were wrong on any of these points. On the contrary, we believe that their liberal and democratic spirit would have a good effect in counteracting the merely commercial spirit of the men of the Manchester party, who think the Government of this country ought to tolerate any insult, and witness the commission of no matter what injustice, rather than run the risk of going to war, or even of sending the funds down by appearing to have some intention of going to war. But it is remarkable, all the same, that whereas Mr. Lowe believes, with most other men who have studied history, that democracies are essentially warlike, Mr. Bright is of opinion that to democratise our Government would be to render it—if such a thing can be conceived—more pacific than it is now. Mr. Lowe is as strongly in favour of absolute non-intervention abroad as Mr. Bright himself; but he believes that to maintain such a policy with a Parliament elected by universal suffrage would be impossible; while Mr. Bright is firmly convinced that it is impossible only so long as the aristocratic element prevails in the House.

When we find two such opposite views as to the probable result of popularising our Legislature expressed by two really able men, who have thought on the question, we cannot help feeling that the result cannot be foreseen by anyone. However, we sometimes find ourselves so placed that we are absolutely obliged to take a leap in the dark, and probably that will be our political position next year. Mr. Lowe's followers will, of course, say that they know perfectly well where the leap will take us to. So, also, will the partisans of Mr. Bright. But all that can be affirmed with certainty about it is that the leap will have to be made, and it will be prudent to look upon it as an experiment, and not make it too impulsively.

THE COLLISION BETWEEN THE BRUISER AND THE HASWELL.

In our last week's Number we published an account of the collision between the steam-ships Bruiser and Haswell off the Suffolk coast, and of the sinking of the Bruiser, with a melancholy loss of life. We now print an engraving illustrative of the sad event, and append the following remarks from our contemporary the *Observer*:—"It is quite time that some new system should be adopted with reference to the sailing of these screw-colliers, which have become a dangerous nuisance. So great is the competition in the coal trade that coal merchants and factors, instead of relying principally for their supplies on the old-fashioned sailing colliers, have now fleets of screw-boats. The instructions given to the captains are that they are to use all speed, and to stop neither for tides, fogs, nor bad weather if there is a chance of the vessel living. The result is that there is the utmost recklessness. The vessels, after they pass Gravesend, are placed in charge of watermen pilots, who take them to and from London. Now, the more rapidly their cargoes are delivered and the sooner the vessel is on her return voyage the more money the owners earn; they have, therefore, a direct interest in running risks. Formerly it used to be said that the safest place for a vessel was the river Thames in a fog, as there everything cast anchor, but now these colliers run night and day, and nothing is safe. These ships are built for speed. They come into the Victoria Docks, have their cargoes discharged by means of the hydraulic lifts, and are at sea again in the course of four or five hours. Their fires are scarcely ever allowed to go out. The owners pay according to the rapidity with which the voyage is performed. The crew have, therefore, a direct interest in running into all kinds of danger. The labour is very severe, and the men are frequently worn out with over toil and watching. It is, therefore, no wonder that such imperfect look-outs are kept. But this is not all; the reckless manner in which these vessels are navigated is so well known that other vessels, as a rule, give them as wide a berth as possible; and the captains of these screws are so well acquainted with this fact that they turn it to their own advantage by making it better known. It is also a curious coincidence that very few collisions take place on dark nights. Then more care and greater watchfulness are necessary. It is generally in broad daylight, or on light nights, that the worst accidents occur. This was well noted some years ago, when there was such a tremendous competition between the Gravesend, Star and Diamond boats. Accidents and collisions were frequent enough, as the unfortunate shareholders knew to their cost; but they almost all occurred in broad daylight and in clear weather. Collisions at sea have of late been terribly frequent; during the present year several have occurred of a fearful character, and been attended with serious loss of life; and it is, therefore, the duty of the Board of Trade to revise their code of regulations with the view of making them more stringent. Lord Campbell's Act, which makes railway companies liable pecuniarily for accidents occasioned by the negligence of their servants, has operated most beneficially for the public, and we should be glad to see the owners of these screw-colliers also made to pay dearly for every accident that occurs through their vessels. They are infinitely more culpable than the officers or crews, as it is in obedience to their express orders that the latter stick at nothing in the shape of danger. The captains know that, if they do not make quick voyages, they will soon be displaced to make room for men who may have more daring but less

conscientiousness. It is the owners, therefore, who are primarily responsible, and we see no reason why they should not be held guilty of manslaughter if loss of life occurs through their directions. If they lose one or two of their ships they do not much mind, as they are generally fully insured, and have what are termed floating policies. What to them does it matter whether lives are lost so long as they can get their supplies of coal quickly and in time for the markets? It is the intense desire to get suddenly rich that induces these people to be so reckless as to loss of life. Sir Stafford Northcote has the reputation of being a good man of business, and he cannot better employ the Parliamentary recess than in devising and preparing some bill which will have the effect of bringing vessels of this kind under better control."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

A report from Paris states that it is the intention of the Emperor to grant some reforms to his people in the direction of constitutional liberty. Should the measures contemplated be concessions worthy of being regarded as a real boon—if, for example, they include some such security for the liberty of the subject as that afforded by our Habeas Corpus Act—the effect must be to divert public attention from that troublesome frontier question which has held the Parisians by the ears for some weeks past and allay the irritation which has existed respecting it during all that time.

PRUSSIA, AUSTRIA, AND ITALY.

The treaty of peace between Austria and Prussia was signed at Prague on Thursday evening week, and has been sent to Vienna for ratification. The principal points in the treaty appear to be only a repetition of the peace preliminaries, with a slight variation in the wording. The only important modification is made in the clause respecting the treaty of commerce between Austria and the Zollverein. By the alteration it is stipulated that six months' notice must be given before either party can withdraw from the Convention. Immediately after the ratification of the treaty of peace the Prussian troops will commence evacuating Austrian territory. Indeed, Prussia seems already to have taken steps towards that end. The treaty contains an article relative to the question of the Elbe duchies. The article stipulates that Prussia shall continue to pay all pensions granted by Austria to Holstein officials; that Austria shall hand over to Prussia the amount of 450,000 Danish thalers belonging to the Holstein finances, at present in her keeping; that no Holstein official shall be called to account or otherwise molested for reasons connected with past events. Prussia, in making peace with Austria, did not neglect her ally, Italy. One of the stipulations of the treaty of peace is that Lombardo-Venetia shall be handed over to Italy with no more onerous condition than the responsibility for the State debts. It is said that the Italian representative in the negotiations with Austria is authorised to demand the restitution of national relics and objects of art which Austria has carried away from Venetia, including the iron crown of Lombardy.

Austria is now beginning to feel again the pressure of her pecuniary difficulties. An Imperial decree has been issued empowering the Finance Minister to issue obligations, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent, to the amount of 50,000,000 florins, and State bonds for 90,000,000 florins. This is the way in which the Prussian indemnity is to be paid, though we may be sure Count Bismarck will not be satisfied with Austrian paper money. It is said that in the new Hungarian Ministry Count Andrássy, vice-president of the Lower Chamber of the Hungarian Diet, will occupy a prominent place.

The Saxons do not seem to be satisfied with the position in which they are left by the peace. A meeting of the Liberal National party has been held at Leipzig, and a resolution passed declaring it to be desirable that Saxony should be incorporated with Prussia. If that should be impossible, then all the military government should be in the hands of Prussia, and the legislation in civil and commercial affairs in the hands of the Government of the Confederation.

The Italians have begun to act upon the treaty of peace. It is said that the Italian Minister of War has ordered the disbanding of all troops belonging to the second category of the class of 1845. A letter has been published from Mazzini declaring that he will not accept the amnesty which has been extended towards him.

The conclusion of a tripartite alliance between Austria, Prussia, and Italy, as a possible corollary to the restoration of peace, engages attention in Germany at this moment, and the project is said to be regarded with favour in political circles. Prussia having acquired, as a result of the war, sufficient territory to round off her frontier and unite in a compact mass what was formerly a number of fragments constituting one kingdom; having succeeded in placing herself at the head of the German Confederation; and having also refrained from pushing her advantage unduly and displayed some magnanimity in the hour of her triumph, she can henceforward desire nothing more than the friendship of Austria. On the other hand, Austria has accepted the decrees of fate with dignity and resignation, and by quitting the Confederation and surrendering Venetia occupies a position which is free from all future complication or conflict of interests. Italy, too, will be satisfied when the last Austrian soldier has quitted her soil. For the sword she will then substitute the sickle and be able to apply herself more to the development of the resources with which Nature has abundantly blessed her than to encouraging the further growth of a martial spirit in her people. An alliance between these three Powers, therefore, would be a guarantee for the peace of the Continent; and in that point of view such a consummation is to be devoutly wished by every friend to the moral and material welfare of the European nations.

ROUMANIA.

Prince Charles of Hohenzollern, the Hospodar of Moldo-Wallachia, has been honoured with a triumphal reception from the inhabitants of the districts through which he passed in his progress through the principalities. For the present it is scarcely possible that the popularity of any Sovereign can equal his; but how long it will continue after the first excitement has worn itself out, and the fresh gilding of the new throne has become dimmed, it is impossible even to hazard a guess. Looking at the favourable position of the country and the extreme fertility with which it has been blessed, we shall rejoice if the experiment to introduce a Constitutional Government, with an enlightened Prince at its head, turn out to be successful. So far, it must be admitted, things look hopeful; for by a reduction of the army to the extent of 11,000 men a considerable saving of expenditure has been effected; the civil list of the Hospodar, too, has been fixed at the moderate sum of about £50,000 sterling, and a new electoral law has been promulgated.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have intelligence from New York to the 18th ult. The Philadelphia Convention had met and had elected Senator Doolittle as chairman. Mr. Vallandigham had withdrawn from the convention. The Massachusetts and South Carolina delegates entered the convention arm-in-arm, amid cheers for President Johnson and the thirty-six loyal States. The President telegraphed that the people must be trusted. The country, he said, would be restored, and his faith was unshaken as to their ultimate success. The convention passed resolutions declaring the Union and the Constitution to be restored, and that neither Congress nor Government could deny representation to any State. The resolutions urged the people to elect none but men admitting this principle. The right to prescribe qualification for the elective franchise is reserved to States. No State can withdraw from the Union, nor by its action in Congress exclude another State from the Union. The resolutions further tender sincere support to President Johnson. The convention had also issued a lengthy address, stating that the Constitution is now just as it was before the war, and that Congress is acting in antagonism to the supreme law of the land in withholding full representation from any of the States. The address

declares that the Southern people, treated as they are now, cannot long remain loyal.

President Johnson had issued a proclamation declaring the decree of Maximilian blockading Matamoros to be in violation of the neutral rights of the United States, as defined by the law of nations and existing treaties. The proclamation declares that the decree is null and void, and that any attempt to enforce it against the Government or the citizens of the United States will be disallowed.

At a Radical meeting held at New York in aid of the victims of the Orleans riots a resolution was passed declaring President Johnson responsible for the massacre in that city.

The Governor of Illinois, Mr. Colfax, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and General Logan had attended a Fenian picnic at Chicago and addressed those present, urging them to join the Republican party, who would not interfere with their movements. A Fenian picnic, with military exercises, was to take place on the 21st near Buffalo; 10,000 persons were expected to be present. Rumours were current at Ottawa of another intended Fenian demonstration. The Canadian authorities were making fresh military preparations in case of a surprise from Buffalo.

MEXICO.

Advices from Matamoros to the 10th ult. announce that the Liberals occupied Monterey, Saltillo, and other towns on July 28. The Imperialists retreated to San Luis Potosi. Marshal Bazaine had set out for the city of Mexico. Juarez was en route for Monterey. The Liberals occupied Tampico on the 1st ult. The American General Lewis Wallace had arrived at Matamoros in a steamer from New York, with men, arms, and ammunition for the Liberals. Wallace holds the commission of Major-General in the Liberal army. A French corvette was blockading Matamoros, where a political revolution had occurred, resulting in the overthrow of the Governor of Carvagal and his flight to Brownsville. General Wallace was at Carvagal's head-quarters at Brownsville. The Emperor had placed Michoacan, Taucitar, Tuxpau, Tulancingo, and Seacallan under martial law.

SOUTH AMERICA.

By the West India and Pacific mail we have intelligence from South America as to the whereabouts of the Spanish fleet which recently performed such doughty deeds in the waters of defenceless Valparaiso, and afterwards received so fine a drubbing at Callao. It appears that, after the taste he got at the latter place of the Chilean ironclads and 300-pounder Armstrong guns, Admiral Nunez took his ships to Tahiti for repairs. There they, in addition to their other mishaps, found themselves without coal, and that they would have to rely upon their sails and the seamanship of their crews when the time arrived for leaving. Meanwhile, the Chilean Government have provided themselves with funds sufficient to enable them to fit out a considerable squadron, which, it was expected, would be ordered to go in search of the Spaniards, who, if caught in their lamed condition, will serve as little better than targets for their enemies. Admiral Nunez, it is reported, was so sadly wounded in the fight at Callao that he was not likely to recover.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA AND THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

The following is the text of the address, in reply to the speech from the Throne, proposed by Herr von Stavenhagen and adopted by a great majority in the Prussian Chamber of Deputies:—

Most Serene and Mighty King; Most Gracious King and Lord,—Your Majesty has gathered us round your throne in a moment of supreme importance in the history of the world. Our people humbly thank and praise the grace of God which has preserved your Majesty's precious life, and permitted such great deeds to be achieved. Those great deeds, which carried our brave army in a few weeks from land to land, from victory to victory, in one place across the River Maine, in another up to the gates of the Austrian capital, have filled our hearts with joyous satisfaction and gratefulness. We express the thanks of the people to the thousands whom the grave now covers, and to all the surviving warriors of the standing army, and of the Landwehr created in those great times; to the eminent leaders; and, above all, to your Majesty yourself, who, assuming the command in the decisive battle, shared sufferings and dangers with the warriors, and by active leadership made an end of the war. The results achieved are already now of great importance—the dissolution of the Federal constitution, the settlement with Austria, the extension of the frontiers and dominion of our State, and the prospect opened thereby that, at a time not very distant, a politically united Germany may develop itself under the leadership of the greatest German State. We agree with your Majesty in feeling assured that those fruits can only ripen under the influence of harmonious co-operation between the Government and the representatives of the people. Without the assurance and development of the constitutional rights of the people, we cannot reckon upon the allegiance of the spirits and hearts in Germany which alone gives strength and durability to power. In view of the fact that for a number of years the expenses of the State have been paid without a legally adopted and settled budget, and partly at variance with the resolutions of the Chamber of Deputies, it is a great satisfaction to the latter that your Majesty has been pleased solemnly to express that the expenditure of money during that time has been without legal foundation, because such can only be obtained by the budget law, according to article 99 of the Constitution, which is to be voted every year. In view of this Royal word, acknowledging the necessity of an annual budget law, which can only come into force by the vote of the Chamber of Deputies, and accordingly also acknowledging the necessity of a declaration of indemnity for the past to be obtained from both Houses of Legislature, the representation of the country are justified in feeling confident that in future all conflict will be avoided by the due adoption of the budget law before the beginning of the financial year. The proposals placed before the representatives for deliberation respecting the indemnity bill and the finances will be examined with all the care that our duty requires us to bestow upon them. With similar care will we examine the proposals, hailed with joy and gratitude, respecting the incorporation of the German countries to be united with Prussia, and respecting the convocation of a popular representation of the North German Federal States; while we have full confidence that, should the rights of the Prussian people and representation have to be infringed in favour of a future Parliament, such Parliament will then also be assured of the full enjoyment of those rights. Penetrated by the great importance of the present epoch for the whole German fatherland, we offer from the bottom of our hearts our co-operation for a united and liberal development of the same, which Providence has placed in the hands of your Majesty. We cannot hide from ourselves that there are still great difficulties to be encountered, and that the constitution of the North German Confederation cannot be put off until they have all been met. But, firmly convinced of the necessity for a national bond between the north and south of the German fatherland, we confidently hope that such will be created in a future not too far distant—namely, when the German races in the south acknowledge what is already felt to a great extent there, the danger of a division in Germany, and give a candid and unequivocal expression to the want of a national and firm union with the north.

Royal Majesty.—In all great days of our Prussian history the spirit and power of her Princes were found united with those of the people in devotion and attachment. Thus it must also be with us in future; and who will then be against us?

With deepest veneration, we remain your Majesty's most faithful and most obedient,
THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

To this address the King replied as follows:—

I thank you, heartily, Gentlemen, for your address; and beg you to communicate the expression of my Royal gratitude to the body which deputed you. I know your address gives utterance to sentiments entertained not only by the House but by the entire country. You were right to emphasise the success of our arms, and to commend the army for its signal achievements. I do not know of any instance in history when such grand results have been so rapidly attained; and I thank God that he has chosen me and the present generation as instruments to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of Prussia—nay, of all Germany. My late brother, a good and a wise King, repeatedly endeavoured to consolidate our political position; but, owing to the unfavourable circumstances of the times, was obliged to bequeath the task to his successors. Well, Gentlemen, we have been more fortunate this time, and, next to Providence, are indebted to the army for now reaping the fruits of victory. I cannot on this occasion but repeat my conviction that the army in overcoming the enemy was materially assisted by the advantages accruing to it from the new organisation of the line and the reserves. Much as it has been opposed, I am happy to perceive that the new organisation is better appreciated after the war. I am warranted in indulging the hope that it will benefit the country for years to come. I agree with you that great difficulties remain to be surmounted; but, with the help of God, I am ready to face them all. As regards the Bill of Indemnity asked by my Government, and alluded to in your address, you will remember that I never denied the right of the purse as constitutionally vested in Parliament. But when I deemed the reorganisation of the

army indispensable, when I knew it would be shortly regarded in the same light by the entire country, was I to imperil our safety by postponing it to a later date? Was I not, on the contrary, obliged to protect the dearest interests of the kingdom, and to carry on the public administration on my own responsibility, as long as no agreement could be effected between the majority of the House and my Government. That it was a case of necessity, unique of its kind, I ever readily admitted, and admit to this day. I own, Gentlemen, that there was a similar emergency possible I do not know of any other expedient which could be adopted; but the like can never occur again. Circumstances have changed and smoothed the way to a better understanding between us. Your address has been passed all but unanimously, and contains nothing which I do not cordially approve. We are at one again, and shall ever remain so. Once more let me thank you from the bottom of my heart for meeting me in a friendly and patriotic attitude in this great crisis of German affairs.

THE POLISH OUTBREAK AT IRTKOUSK.

THE *Chas* of Oracow gives the following account of the outbreak of the Polish exiles in Irtkousk, which, it says, it obtained from eyewitnesses of Galician origin:—

One of the principal causes of the outbreak was the want of food. The provisions which were intended by the Government for the use of the exiles were misappropriated by the authorities. Epidemic complaints, the inseparable concomitants of famine, broke out amongst them, and several deaths took place. Remonstrances were made, but without effect; and despair then predominated. About 1200 Poles, employed at Koustouk, on the Lake Baikal—a sterile and almost desert spot—being further irritated by a shocking corporal punishment inflicted unjustly on one of their number, gave the signal of revolt. On the night between the 20th and 21st of June they attacked the soldiers who were on guard, disarmed them, and bound those who resisted. The captain in command was killed, and Colonel Schatz was made prisoner. The Poles, provided with arms, ammunition and horses, proceeded to the north-west, following the telegraphic line along the Baikal. The Russian convicts, who, to the number of about 3000, were at work in a neighbouring district, having heard of the success of the Poles, rose likewise and massacred the troops of the garrison, consisting of 200 Cossacks and two infantry companies. Having armed themselves, they joined the Poles. The native population also gave evidence of their long-suppressed discontent. Believing that the hour of freedom had come, they revolted and agreed to supply the Poles with provisions and horses. The military governor of Irtkousk dispatched at once four infantry companies, a squadron of cavalry, and six guns, under the command of his aide-de-camp, in order to suppress the revolt. These troops having been enticed into an ambush in the midst of the defiles of Saikga, were surrounded on all sides, and, after an obstinate and bloody encounter, were almost entirely destroyed. The guns and ammunition fell into the hands of the Poles. The bodies of twenty officers and two Colonels were brought into Irtkousk. The Governor then collected all the disposable troops, and led them on June 27 against the insurgents by two different routes, one along the shores of the Baikal, and the other in steam-boats across the lake. The latter body succeeded in reaching the colony of Polesk, and entrenched themselves in the convent. The Poles, finding themselves thus placed between two fires, resolved to attack the Russians in the convent, in order to open the way to Nerchinsk and the Chinese frontiers. The convent was taken by assault, and the Russians fled. The second detachment of Russian troops was attacked by the natives and forced to retreat. The Poles then continued their march towards China. The whole garrison of Irtkousk having been thus destroyed, the Government ordered, in the beginning of July, an extraordinary levy in town and country. The entire Polish colonists in the country and in Irtkousk have been placed in irons, and Colonel Levandowski was sent to the northern part of Siberia. Travellers who arrive from the district report that the insurrection is extending in every direction, and that the Poles are in arms at Nerchinsk.

COMMERCE OF HANOVER.

THE August issue of reports from Secretaries of Legation comprises one just received from Mr. Doria on the commerce of the kingdom of Hanover, if kingdom it may still be called. He has no means of distinguishing in the returns of exports and imports the merchandise produced in that country or imported for its consumption. From the position of Hanover it is a country of transit for merchandise passing to and from many of the Zollverein States, and the returns do but show the quantities which have passed the Hanoverian frontier. The import dues levied on articles entering the Zollverein States in 1864 amounted to £3,665,670; the export dues to £24,513. Hanover generally exports a considerable amount of grain; in 1864 the wheat and other seed used for food exported over the Hanoverian frontier amounted to 601,501 centners (1104 lb. avoirdupois, each). The import was 461,252 centners. The export of vermicelli, arrowroot, flower of various kinds, and rice, reached 177,280 centners; butter, 21,538 centners. The marshes on the Elbe, Wessert, and the Ems, are famous for the pasturage they afford. Of coal, 1,401,057 centners, or 68,950 English tons, were exported, sent chiefly to Bremen, in the first instance at least; and 1,911,023 centners were imported. The coal from the mines in Hanover is not exported beyond the Zollverein; the coal exported over the Hanoverian frontier comes from Westphalia. This coal has monopolised the market on the Wessert, and will eventually obtain the same advantage on the Nieder Elbe by means of the railway from the Rhine to Hamburg via Osnabrück. The importation of English coal is almost entirely confined to the Nieder Elbe. The export of tobacco and cigars in 1864 amounted to 152,364 centners; the import was 554,316 centners. Iron and iron goods were exported to the extent of 205,926 centners; the import was 291,521 centners. 4389 centners being rails. The importation of linens amounted to 24,984 centners, but the export reached 44,992 centners, besides 2706 of linen yarn and thread. So, also, with wool and woollen manufactures; besides an excess of exports over imports of carpets to the extent of 121 centners. Of horses and cattle 41,421 head were exported, and only 15,409 imported; of sheep, pigs, and goats 46,680 were exported, 6736 imported. There were in Hanover, in 1864, 4420 workmen and workwomen employed in tobacco and snuff manufactures and establishments, 1100 in paper-mills, 6183 in brick-kilns, 1480 in iron-factories, 996 in engine-works, 1448 in other ironworks, 1265 in weaving cloth, 1834 in weaving cotton, and 1435 persons are returned as employed upon 1643 cotton-loom, and 6692 upon 4493 linen looms. The population of Hanover was 1,923,492. In the year ending July, 1865, the railways of Hanover carried 46,046,326 centners of merchandise, rather more than half of it passing across the frontier, the rest being forwarded from one place to another within the kingdom. The estimate of the revenue for the year 1865-6 was £3,111,630, showing a small surplus. Mr. Doria says:—"From the public revenue the King receives nominally the sum of 600,000 thalers, besides the interest of £600,000 belonging to the Crown of Hanover, which is invested in the public funds in England. The King has made use of the right granted him by the Constitution to take land belonging to Government, the administration of which is in the hands of persons appointed by himself, and the rent of which is valued at 444,000 thalers; the residue is paid from the revenue of public or Government domains. The Crown Prince receives from the same source 30,000 thalers, or £4500 annually, which is voted by the Chambers."

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—From the return of the Registrar-General for the week ending Saturday, Aug. 25, it appears that the deaths registered in the week from cholera were 265, and from diarrhoea 129. In the five preceding weeks the deaths were—cholera, 346, 904, 1053, 781, and 455; diarrhoea, 221, 349, 354, 264, and 184. At Liverpool the deaths from cholera during the last eight weeks have been—4, 19, 45, 87, 101, 126, 157, and 146; showing, therefore, a decrease last week of 11, as compared with that which preceded it. The annual rates of mortality for the week ending Aug. 18, in London and twelve other large towns, were, per 1000, as follows:—Bristol, 18; Hull, 19; Salford and Dublin, 20; Birmingham, 21; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 23; London, 25; Sheffield, 26; Manchester, 29; Newcastle-on-Tyne, 32; Leeds, 34; and Liverpool, 54.

THE NEW PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.—Liverpool, which, after London, is the most theatrical town in the kingdom—now possesses a new "temple of the drama," which will be opened on Oct. 15. This magnificent establishment has been built opposite St. George's Hall and in the immediate vicinity of the London and North-Western Railway station and the chief hotels, and it also faces one of the widest and most crowded thoroughfares in the town. It is the property of a limited liability company, the directors and shareholders including some of the most influential and wealthy residents, both native and foreign. The architect is Mr. Salomons, of Manchester, and both before and behind the curtain the arrangements for the perfection of the performances and the comfort of the public are not surpassed by any theatre in Europe. Mr. Salomons and the directors having carefully studied and improved upon the best "points" of the principal theatres and opera-houses, both in this country and the Continent. The directors very wisely selected as the manager of their theatre, Mr. Alexander Henderson, who, in a very brief space of time, made the Prince of Wales Theatre in Clayton square one of the most popular, prosperous, and celebrated in the United Kingdom, completely reviving in Liverpool an almost dormant taste for theatrical performances. As Mr. Henderson's own theatre has been sold to a public company for the purpose of being transformed into a music-hall, the new theatre will be known by the title of the New Prince of Wales Theatre; and will, doubtless, soon rival its original namesake in public favour. Mr. Henderson will commence his campaign at the New Prince of Wales Theatre with a brief season of Italian opera, when Titiens, Mario, Santley, &c., will appear in several operas unknown to local theatre-goers. Toole and Southern will be the next "stars;" and for Christmas Mr. Byron is writing a pantomime on the story of "Robinson Crusoe."

REFORM DEMONSTRATION AT BIRMINGHAM.

THE "demonstration" for which the Reform League of this town have been making preparations ever since the late Government resigned office took place on Monday; and, if the presence of an immense host (numbering, it is estimated, about 200,000) is to be taken as an earnest of enthusiasm and of devotion to a cause, the gathering on Monday was a decided success. The "demonstration" also partook of as much of the character of spontaneity as anything in its way can do. The people themselves organised it and carried it out; it was essentially a working men's movement: the trade societies and the co-operative societies of every class all contributed to swell the vast throng, which began to collect itself soon after nine o'clock in the morning. All the towns of the district contributed large quotas. Kidderminster, Coventry, Oldbury, Smethwick, West Bromwich, Dudley, Nuneaton, Bilston, Stourbridge, King's Norton, Stafford, Wolverhampton, and other places all sent deputations; and from the density of the population of those parts may be estimated the strength of the augmentation in point of numbers to the scores of thousands who turned out from the manufactories of the town. Nearly all business was put a stop to for the day; in some instances the men remained in the workshops, but they were comparatively few, and the men preferred to sacrifice the whole day rather than work up to half-past twelve, which was the time fixed for the procession to move.

About half-past eleven o'clock the Mayor (Mr. Edwin Yates) arrived at the central rendezvous—the Townhall. His Worship was received with much applause, as were also Mr. Bright and Mr. Scholefield, who followed a little later. Mr. Edmond Beales, Mr. Mason Jones, and other leaders of the party had also a cordial reception. A preliminary conference between the joint committees of the Reform League and the Liberal Association was soon afterwards held, but no business of importance was transacted. Meanwhile the streets were filling rapidly with an orderly crowd. It had been arranged that the procession should move in six divisions, the first to consist of the great body of men employed at the metropolitan and other carriage companies' works and the working jewellers; the second to comprise the Mayor, the borough members, the aldermen and town councillors, the officers of the Birmingham Liberal Association and of the Reform League; the third, the auxiliary branches of the Reform League; the fourth, the Birmingham and district trade societies; the fifth, the temperance societies; and, lastly, the friendly and other societies. It was arranged that they should move from six different points and rendezvous at the Townhall.

To marshal such a huge mass as was assembling required some skill, and could not have been done effectively but for the spirit of order and discipline shown by the closely-packed crowds who lined every thoroughfare. By a quarter to one Mr. Glossop, the chief of police, had got the first division of the procession into marching array. There was a long line of carriages on one side of the Townhall, where the principal guests were to enter them. They did so without the slightest delay or inconvenience. Mr. Scholefield, Mr. Bright, the Mayor, and other friends sat in the first carriage.

A few minutes before one o'clock the procession started. A mounted force of the police was in attendance to preserve the line, but the people behaved admirably; they preserved decorum and regularity themselves. The distance traversed to Brookfields was about two miles and a quarter. Throughout, that entire space and every avenue leading to it was one dense mass of people; every window, and parapet, and balcony was crowded; from every window streamed forth gay colours, blue greatly preponderating; then there were the scores of banners of the trade societies, numerous bands of music playing, and every accessory to produce a scene (on which the sun now and then shone brilliantly) which it would not be easy to describe. Now and then the crowd was so dense that the procession came to a halt for a moment or two. Mr. Bright, standing up in his carriage, with head uncovered, was greeted with many rounds of cheers.

Brookfields, where this great gathering was to halt, belongs to Sir Thomas Gooch. It is situated just without the borough, in the county of Stafford, and is a plot of undulating ground of some fifty acres, abutting on the Great Western Railway. The procession reached this at two o'clock in perfect order, a large portion of the ground having been previously occupied by those who had not chosen to join the moving mass. Unfortunately, the ground was barely reached when there came down a pelting storm of rain. It lasted fully twenty minutes, but the people endured it with remarkable good humour. The consequence was, however, to greatly mar the effect of the spectacle, which in bright sunshine must have been splendid, the numerous gay banners floating about contributing much to the picturesque. It was, however, a grand sight notwithstanding the drawback referred to. For a space of fully a quarter of a mile, as seen from the crest of the wavy ground, was to be seen a dense mass of people, some of them vainly attempting to catch the voices of the orators who addressed them from half a dozen platforms. The speaking did not last very long, and was becoming tedious, brief as it was. Mr. Beales, Mr. Councillor Baldwin, Mr. T. S. Wright, and other gentlemen spoke; and from each platform the following resolutions were put and carried unanimously:—

1. That the present House of Commons has, by its rejection of the moderate measure of Parliamentary reform proposed by the late Government, proved itself utterly unworthy of our confidence and support, and that it in no sense represents the wishes of the Commons of Great Britain. We therefore hereby pledge ourselves to demand, agitate for, and use all lawful means to obtain registered residential manhood suffrage as the only just basis of representation, and the ballot to protect us from undue influence and intimidation in elections.
2. That this meeting tenders its warmest and most grateful thanks to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone; J. Bright, Esq.; J. Stuart Mill, Esq., and all other friends of reform who throughout the late discussions in Parliament vindicated the character and protected the rights of the people.
3. That this meeting presents its sincere thanks to E. Beales, Esq., and the other members of the Reform League for their exertions in defence of the right of public meeting and of the true principle of reform—residential and registered manhood suffrage.

A meeting was held in the Townhall in the evening to present addresses to the borough members, Messrs. Bright and Scholefield. The immense hall was densely crowded by a highly respectable and attentive audience, which was addressed by Mr. Bright, Mr. Scholefield, Mr. Edmond Beales, and other gentlemen. The Mayor presided, and the utmost enthusiasm, yet good order, prevailed. The topics handled in the speeches were the debates in Parliament on the reform bill of the late Government, the necessity for an extension of the suffrage, and the conduct of the opponents of reform, and particularly of the Earl of Derby and his colleagues on that question.

TRADE WITH JAPAN.—In point of value, the trade with Japan showed an immense expansion in the year 1865. The imports brought by British vessels rose from 5,693,647 Mexican dollars in 1864 to 11,560,509 dollars in 1865, and the imports in foreign vessels from 1,157,640 dollars to 2,634,262 dollars. The exports in British vessels rose from 9,941,404 dollars in 1864 to 16,186,825 dollars in 1865, and the exports in foreign vessels from 630,818 dollars to 2,303,407 dollars. But the increase in the value of the exports from Japan was owing chiefly to the enormous rise in the price of Japanese silk; the quantity shipped in 1865 was rather less than in 1863, although costing nearly a treble price. As very high prices fail to secure an increased supply, it is thought probable that we obtain as much of the annual production as can be spared for exportation. The tea trade is checked by the imperfect preparation of the leaf in Japan, and the quality is more suited to the American than the English market. There was an enormous expansion of the import trade with Japan, caused by the increasing demand for foreign manufactures in that country, which, not having (like China) a redundant population, can obtain clothing more cheaply from foreigners than from its own cottage looms. There was in 1864 an extraordinary increase in the demand for cotton manufactures, which might be owing partly, perhaps, to the failure, to a great extent, of the cotton crop for 1865 in Japan, and also to the high price of raw cotton in 1864 having tended to drain the country of that article. A remarkable feature in the export trade of Japan in 1865 was the shipment of upwards of 1,500,000 sheets of silk. Although only recently participating in the trade of the world, Japan is already clothed to a considerable extent by foreign looms; and it, by helping to make up for the ravages of disease in the European silkworm, she should be the means of reviving this important industry, it will be a signal instance of the advantages of the extension of commercial relations.

A CLAIMANT TO THE DERWENTWATER ESTATES.

A DISCOVERY was made during the late war in Germany which seems likely ere long to add another chapter to the romance of the English Peerage. When James Radcliffe, Earl of Derwentwater, was executed for his share in the rising on behalf of the Pretender, in 1715, he left a son, the Hon. John Radcliffe, and a daughter, Anna Maria, who afterwards married the eighth Lord Petre. The son, although he lost his title of nobility by the attainder of his father, was admitted tenant in tail of all his settled estates, and the fortune of the Earl's daughter was also raised and paid out of the same. The Earl's son was in possession of the estates during sixteen years, and had he lived to attain twenty-one, he might have effectually dealt with them so that they could not at any future time have been affected by the attainder of his noble father, or of his uncle, Charles Radcliffe. Upon his supposed or reputed death, in 1731, without issue, the estates were confiscated by the Crown, notwithstanding the fact that collateral relatives were living at the time. It is now asserted that the Hon. John Radcliffe did not die in 1731, as reported, but that he escaped to the Continent, and lived in Germany to the age of eighty-six. Moreover, it is alleged that a lady is now living at Blaydon-on-Tyne who claims to be a lineal descendant of the John Radcliffe in question. This is the Lady Amelia Matilda Mary Tudor Radcliffe, Countess of Waldstein-Waters. The *Newcastle Chronicle* says her Ladyship's claims were brought under the notice of Government ten years ago, and gives the following account of the result of that application, together with a statement of the additional evidence brought to light within the last few months:—"In the month of May, 1857, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue commenced an action against Lady Matilda to recover taxes from which she claimed exemption. In support of her claim of exemption, and also with a view to enlist the sympathies of his Lordship in her favour, she forwarded a number of family documents, of vital importance in support of her case, to the late Lord Palmerston for his personal inspection, requesting to have the original documents returned. The taxes from which she claimed exemption were not enforced, but she never saw these important documents again; Lord Palmerston, although at first admitting that he had received them, afterwards affecting ignorance as to their existence—a most unworthy device on the part of the great statesman. The unfortunate lady was thus deprived of most important evidence in support of her claims on the rich and extensive estates of the Derwentwaters. During the time James, third and last Earl of Derwentwater, lay in the Tower, his Countess removed a quantity of valuable jewellery, plate, pictures, furniture, and furnishings from the mansions on the Isle of Derwent and at Dilston. These seem to have been selected as mementoes of her beloved Lord and other members of his illustrious family. When she took up her residence at Louvain, these interesting and valuable articles were conveyed thither, and most probably by way of Blaydon, to be shipped at Newcastle. Most singular to relate, these rich and curious objects, after a lapse of more than a century and a quarter, have been brought back to Blaydon again. There are so many of them as to fill almost every room of Lady Matilda's residence. Their history is clothed with romance. When war broke out between France and Germany, towards the close of the last century, these interesting memorials of the Radcliffe family were placed for security in a secret vault in Hesse-Darmstadt. There they lay undisturbed until the beginning of this year, when they once more saw the light. They had suffered by lapse of time, but much more by the damp of the vault, some of the valuable family pictures having sustained irreparable injury; but the state the whole of the articles were in was still sufficient to show their former beauty and splendour. Lady Matilda, by permission of the authorities of Hesse-Darmstadt, had the greatest portion of these relics of the former grandeur of her family removed to Blaydon, fortunately just in time to prevent their capture by the victorious Prussians. The pictures and other perishable articles have since been renovated as far as possible; but the workmen have succeeded in restoring a portion only of their pristine splendour, in some instances the damage caused by damp and its accompanying decay being irreparable. We have, through the kindness of Lady Matilda, been favoured with an inspection of this truly unique collection. Nearly every article has inscribed upon it a date, and the name of either Dilston Hall, or Isle of Derwent, showing from which of the family residences it had been taken."

HASTINGS RACES.

No place of resort for Englishmen would be complete without races. One spot may boast of the beauties of unrivalled sylvan scenery; another may possess attractions of "mountain and of flood;" a third may be seated by "the sad sea wave;" but none are perfect in their arrangements without races. Accordingly, Brighton, Margate, and other places have added horse-racing to their several attractions; and of course Hastings, which now claims the character of a "favourite watering-place," must have races too. Now, the Hastings races are not yet by any means famous—indeed, we doubt if even "bookmakers" know much about them. But this year they had an exceptional advantage: the British Archaeological Association was in session in the town, and, as even Dr. Dryasdust and his friends and followers must have relaxation from their hard studies, and can enjoy "a little nonsense now and then" as keenly as less wise and less learned men, why Hastings races have this year been a considerable success, which justifies us in presenting our readers with the accompanying Engraving illustrative of the event. The stewards on the occasion were the Marquis of Hastings, the Earl of Westmorland, Lord St. Vincent, Sir Anchtel Ashburnham, and H. M. Cartes, N. J. Fuller, T. Brassey, V. B. Crake, J. H. Wagner, and A. Donovan, Esqs. The racing occupied two days, and the various "events" were contested with much spirit.

THE CANNON-STREET RAILWAY STATION.

THIS station, which is opened for traffic this day, now that it is cleared, presents a very imposing appearance, with its spacious platforms and its six rows of handsome globular lamps. The segmental roof is wider in a single span and longer than the roof of any other building in London. At the inner corners of the station there are, to the right, the station master's offices, and adjoining them the bullion office; at the opposite corner there are spacious refreshment-rooms, the neat booking-office for local traffic, and Messrs. Smith and Son's book-stall, at appropriate distances on the edge of the wide cross platform at the inner end of the station. The principal booking-offices and waiting-rooms, with the entrance and exit to and from the station platforms are, as at Charing-cross, on and through the ground floor of the hotel, which at Cannon-street is reached by a long range of easy steps, the breasts of which are of strong glass, by which light reaches the basement. The nine lines in the station are reduced to five lines in crossing the bridge. On reaching the Surrey side the line curves to the left continuously till it reaches the straight for London Bridge. The Charing-cross branch strikes off to the right at the fork and describes Hogarth's line of beauty—an easy ogive curve. The junction is close to Barclay and Perkins's brewery, which is to the right, coming outwards, and passes close to some ancient villas, which, like a few others left in Southwark, were surrounded by orchards and lawns, in the days when the Bishop of Winchester had his palace in the locality. At the junction an additional line is added, giving three lines each way to Charing-cross on the one hand, and to London Bridge on the other. Engine-sheds, turn-tables for engine and tender, sidings, and other conveniences occupy a large space near this junction. Since the official inspection of the City extension of the South-Eastern Railway and the splendid terminus in Cannon-street by the Government inspector, Mr. Eborall, the general manager, and Mr. Knight, the superintendent, of the line, have been indefatigable in their exertions to secure the safe working of this important branch. For the past fortnight Mr. Knight has been busily engaged in revising the signals and making all the necessary arrangements for the large traffic expected to pour over the line.

MR. E. HOPKINS, C.E., has devised a means of depolarising iron ships. Operating upon the Northumberland, he, by means of two of Grove's batteries, of five cells each, and electro-magnets, completely destroyed the polarity of the hull in the course of a few hours. Immediately after a compass was carried along the ship's side in a boat, within 4 ft. of the plates, from the bow to the stern, without being affected; whereas before it had a large deviation at a distance of from 20 to 30 ft.

SWIMMING-MATCH AT SEA FOR £100.—On Monday afternoon a most extraordinary match from Sheerness to the Nore was swum between Henry Coulter, captain of the Serpentine Swimming Club, and Ikey Coody, the landlord of the Old King's Head, Sheerness, the stakes being £50 a side. The challenge emanated from Coody, who has been in her Majesty's marine service, long distances being his more especial forte, and who offered to swim against anybody in the world from Sheerness to the Nore lightship, a distance of about four miles "as the crow flies." The start was from boats close to her Majesty's ship *Formidable*. The steam-bout City of Rochester accompanied the match, and was well filled. Coulter won by thirty-five minutes, occupying one hour and three quarters in reaching the lightship.



HASTINGS RACES.



THE NEW RAILWAY BRIDGE AND STATION AT CANNON-STREET, CITY.

THE EAST LONDON WATER COMPANY'S WORKS.

SPECIAL attention having been drawn by the recent ravages of cholera to the water supply of the eastern districts of the metropolis, the accompanying Engravings of the filtering-beds of the East London Water Company, at Lea Bridge, and of their covered reservoir at Bow, will, no doubt, be generally interesting. The Engraving of the Works at Lea Bridge shows the sand in the filtering-beds in process of being cleansed, an operation which is performed from time to time as occasion requires.

In connection with this matter, we may reproduce the subjoined remarks, which were appended to a recent report of the Registrar-General on the state of the public health:—

"The cause of the epidemic of cholera consists, as is well known now, of a zymotic matter in various degrees of activity all over the London area, affecting the people in various ways, through air, contact, and water. Hitherto, in all the great outbreaks here, the cholera, which this stuff may be called, has been distributed chiefly through water, as was shown in the Registrar-General's reports on the previous epidemics.

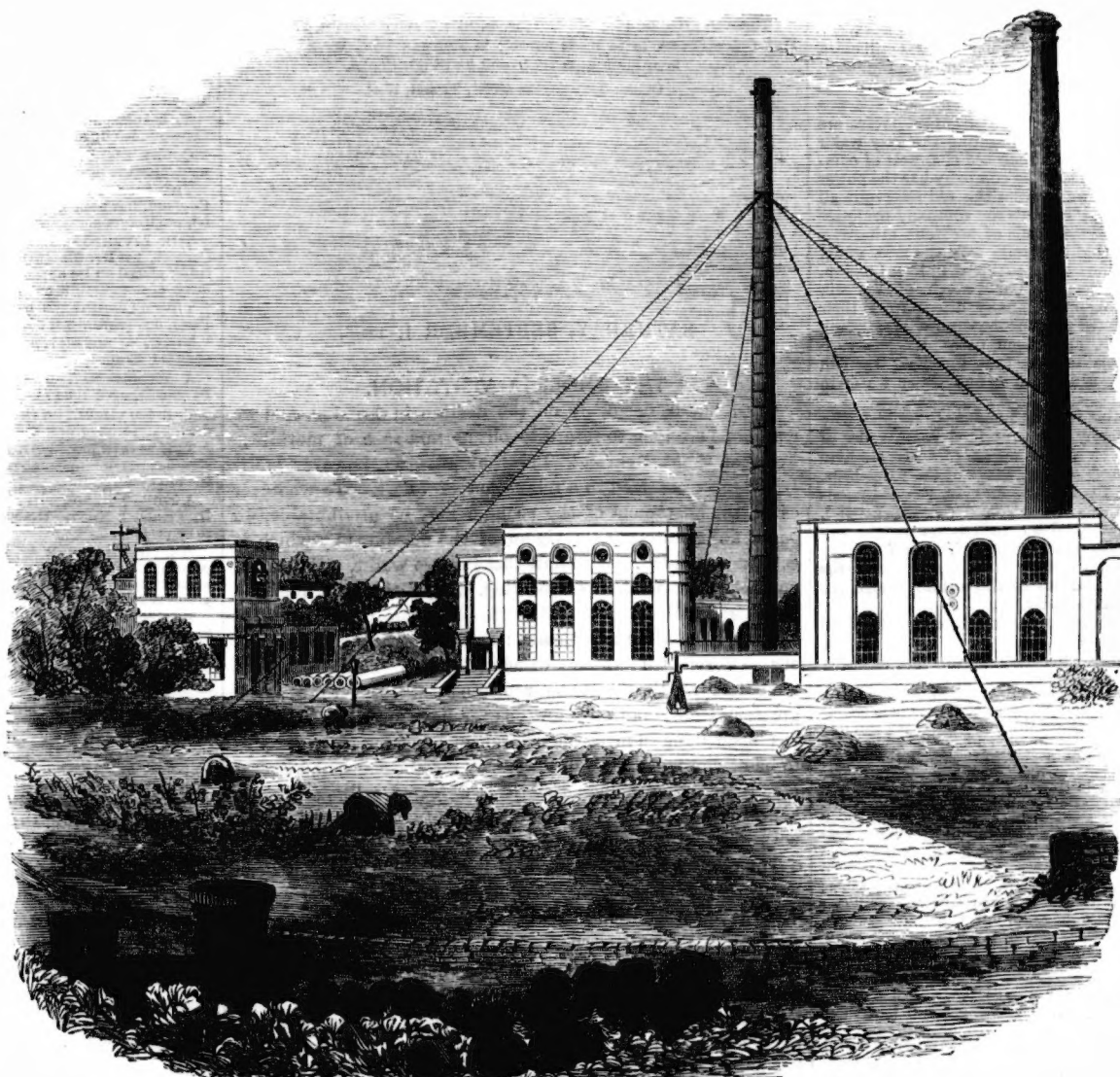
"When it was observed, therefore, that the present fatal explosion of cholera fell on the east districts in the first week, suspicion was aroused; and that was strengthened by the observations in the week ending July 28, and by personal inspection, which showed that the attacks were diffused over a wide area, among many people in bad hygienic conditions and also among many in ordinary conditions, often well to do, living in streets by no means so poor or so dirty as the streets of the south and of other regions of London. The population was principally in the port of London, but not exclusively, and little more exposed to infection than the district along the south side of the Thames, which had formerly

been decimated by cholera when the water supply on that side was polluted. The air of east London is often charged with impurities which are undoubtedly noxious, and so are other parts; but any impurity of the air is rapidly diffused all over London.

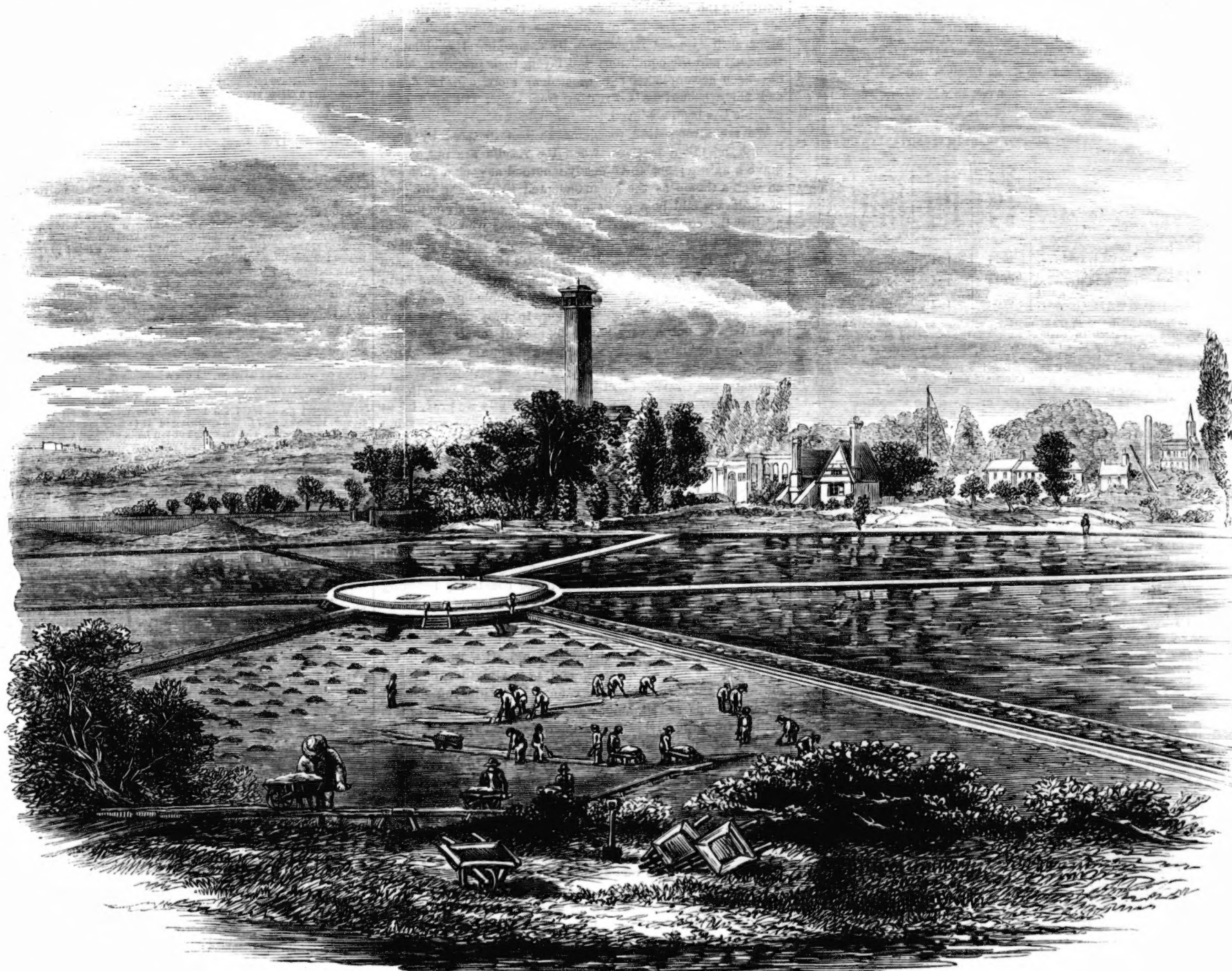
"Nearly all the infected district are supplied by one water company, which now derives its water, not as was stated last week, at Lea Bridge, where its filtering-beds lie, but about 2½ miles higher up the river, and above Tottenham. As far as Enfield the river is protected from sewage by an intercepting drain; but it receives the drainage of all the country and towns in its basin."

"The New River takes a large portion of its supply higher up the Lea, and engages to deodorise the sewage of Hertford before it is discharged into the water. There is no such protection against the sewage of Ware. Upon the whole, the upper waters of the tributary Lea are not worse than the waters of the Thames, which are exposed to similar contaminations; and the filtering arrangements of the East London Company are elaborate, and probably as effective as those of the Thames companies. The thirteen filter-beds at Lea Bridge cover an area of twelve acres. A part of the water is distributed from the well of those beds by the most powerful engine of the company; the rest of the filtered water is carried three miles down to a covered reservoir of about 2½ acres at Old Ford, where it is distributed over the area now suffering so much from cholera. The water in this reservoir looks perfectly pure. Close by its side, which is well built, flows the tidal end of the Lea, black, and full of the foulest impurities.

* Dr. Redcliffe has remarked that the Cobbin, which flows into the Lea through Waltham Abbey, drains Epping, where the late small outbreak of cholera was observed. That stream is said to be dry.



THE WORKS OF THE EAST LONDON WATER COMPANY: THE COVERED RESERVOIR AT BOW.



THE WORKS OF THE EAST LONDON WATER COMPANY: THE FILTERING-BEDS AT LEA BRIDGE.

"The company in its first years drew its waters mainly from the Lea at this point, and the first improvement was effected by carrying its intake up the river to Lea Bridge, beyond the tidal range. The water was brought down an open canal by the side of Hackney-cum, and terminated in two large reservoirs on the other side of the black Lea. This canal and these reservoirs of about nine acres still exist. They are marked in the most recent map by Stanford as the 'East London Waterworks Canal,' and the 'East London Waterworks Reservoirs.' One of these reservoirs was recently emptied, and was filled again perhaps by springs or soakage. These old reservoirs are not, it is said, used, the covered reservoirs containing the only water fit for use; but the old reservoirs retain their old channels of communication with the pumping-wells, and the company has the power in an emergency to distribute the water from the old reservoirs all over the region of the cholera field. But this the company professes not to do, and it could scarcely be the result of accident, otherwise the diffusion of the waters of the old reservoirs over the area would afford a probable explanation of the sudden outbreak in East London.

"It is a notable circumstance that the parts north of Victoria Park, supplied by the East London Company direct from their filter-beds, have not hitherto suffered from cholera, notwithstanding contiguity to the infected districts, more than other districts supplied by other companies. This implies that the East London water, as it leaves the filter-beds, is as good as any other water in London.

"It is natural, as land is valuable in East London, to inquire why a commercial company has for many years retained some miles of a canal and nine acres of reservoirs for no purpose? Mr. Greaves replies that the canal serves to carry off the waste of the filter-beds, and that the company proposes to convert one of the old ponds into a covered reservoir. When this is done, and the other pond, which, we are told, is of no use, is filled up, or has no longer any connection with the pumping-wells of the company, the public may well rest satisfied, until some great general reform is effected in the water supply of London. In the interests of the public health the country has a right to demand this security.

"The following are extracts from letters which have been received from Professor Frankland, F.R.S.:-

I have seen an abstract of the Registrar-General's return. The mortality is frightful. I write to suggest the addition of permanganate of potash to the water in the company's reservoirs. The amount required would be 80 lb. of permanganate to every million gallons of the water, and then run into the reservoirs with the rest of the water in such a manner as to get a thorough admixture. If the water retains a pink hue so much the better; it will lose it before it reaches the consumer. In fact, the permanganate ought to be added until a pink tint lasting half an hour is obtained in the reservoir. The quantity may appear large, but it is of no use to employ a smaller amount. It should be applied, if possible, after filtration, and immediately before transmission to the consumer. Mr. Condy, near Battersea, manufactures this material largely, but I do not know if he could meet so large a demand.

The expense of the permanganate, at 1s. per lb., will be considerable; but what is such an expense in the face of this mortality? It will cost much less than the disinfection of the London sewage which was contemplated some time ago. Of course, the effect of the permanganate is not a matter of certainty, but it is the only thing capable in this emergency of such application that I should have faith in. It is quite innocuous, and could therefore do no harm. It is much better than boiling the water, even if that were possible; for water containing a slight leakage from a water-closet is not deprived of its noxious qualities by being boiled for a short time.

When I state that permanganate is the only purifier in which I should have faith, I have regard, of course, to what is practicable in the present emergency; for, if its use were practicable, I should prefer filtration through animal charcoal, which, as you will see from my three recent reports, removes practically all organic matter. One ton and a half of animal charcoal would be required for each 1,000,000 gallons sent out daily. The animal charcoal should be in grains about the size of blasting powder, and the filtered water would simply have to pass through the mass of this charcoal contained in a suitable tank. The London Water Purifying Company, between the entrances to King's College and Somerset House, use this material, and it is through one of their filters that the New River water passes for my monthly determinations. I think, after all, that such a mode of purifying the whole of a company's water is by no means an insuperable undertaking; the charcoal will continue to act for six months, at least. It is the charcoal used by sugar-refiners; and care should be taken that it is fresh, and has not been already used.

Royal College of Chemistry, Aug. 4, 1866.

Sir,—In compliance with your request, I have made a special analysis of the water supplied by the East London Company, and collected on the 1st inst. The following are the results, together with those yielded by the water supplied by the same company on the 1st of July, and on the average of a whole year:—

	Solid matter in 100,000 parts.	Organic and other volatile matter in 100,000 parts.	Oxygen required to oxidise the organic matter.	Degree of hardness.
East London Company's water, collected August 1, 1866	26.14	1.44	.0328	17.7
East London Company's water, collected July 1, 1866	24.38	1.94	.0344	16.0
East London Company's water (average of one year)	27.98	1.62	.0504	21.12

It is the amount of organic matter contained in this water which is of especial importance in connection with the outbreak of cholera in the district supplied by this company. The above results show that, in this respect, the water supplied on the 1st of August is considerably better than that supplied on the 1st of July, when the amount of this ingredient was markedly above the average. Chemical analysis, therefore, although it shows a larger quantity of organic matter than ought to be contained in water used for drinking purposes, does not reveal any exceptional degree of pollution in this water. It must be borne in mind, however, that chemical investigation is utterly unable to detect the presence of choleraic poison amongst the organic impurities of water; and there can be no doubt that this poison may be present in quantity fatal to the consumer, though far too minute to be detected by the most delicate chemical research.

It is thus that the occurrence of cases of cholera, or of choleraic diarrhoea, upon the banks of any of the streams, from which the water supply of London is so largely derived, may at any moment diffuse this poison over large areas of the metropolis. For the prevention of such a catastrophe there is a method which deserves considerable confidence. In my last three monthly reports to you on the metropolitan waters, I have shown that filtration through animal charcoal (bone-black) removes, practically, the whole of the organic matter from the New River water; and in numerous other experiments I have ascertained that this process is equally efficient even when applied to the foul waters of ponds and ditches. I have also proved that its action continues unimpaired for three months, and will probably last for a year, even when very large volumes of water are passed through it. Animal charcoal alone has this power; vegetable charcoal being perfectly inert.

I would, therefore, most earnestly recommend that, during the prevalence of cholera, the whole of the water supplied to the metropolis should be passed through animal charcoal immediately before transmission to consumers from the reservoirs of the respective companies. For this purpose 300 tons of bone-black, in the condition in which it is used by sugar-refiners, would be required to purify the total supply of the metropolis, as I find that water passed at the rate of 1,000,000 gallons in twenty-four hours through three tons of bone-black is completely purified. This operation, even when performed upon the water supply of London (100,000,000 gallons daily), would be neither formidable nor expensive. Three or four days would suffice to fix the necessary filtering-boxes, whilst the animal charcoal, being an article which is now manufactured on a very large scale, can be had on the shortest notice. It is scarcely necessary to add that the water should be passed through the animal charcoal after it has undergone the usual process of filtration.

I have, &c.,

E. FRANKLAND.

In reply to an inquiry, Mr. Bazalgette has favoured the Registrar-General with a short account of the drainage of the cholera district:—

It is, unfortunately, just the locality where our main-drainage works are not complete. The low-level sewer is constructed through the locality, but the pumping-station at Abbey Mills will not be completed until next summer; therefore the drainage of the district does not yet flow into the low-level sewer. We are decolorising the sewers and gutters freely with chloride of lime; and to-morrow I shall recommend the board to erect a temporary pumping-station at Abbey Mills to lift the sewage of this district into the northern outfall sewer. This can be accomplished in about three weeks' time.—Yours faithfully,

J. W. BAZALGETTE.

THE LIVERPOOL MAGISTRATES in annual licensing session are refusing all applications for new houses, except to hotels and refreshment-houses. Last year nearly all the applications were granted.

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THE CHOLERA VISITATION.

CHOLERA is decidedly on the decline in London, and we may hope ere long to return to our normal rate of mortality. For that thank Heaven! But that prospect, however gratifying, must not lead to a relaxation of effort. To whatever cause the abatement of the scourge may be attributable, we ought not to intermit the vigour of the measures by which it can be combated. We know that impure water, vitiated air, unwholesome food, overcrowding, dirt, filth, fetid smells—in short, foulnesses of all sorts—are the best friends of cholera, as of all other diseases; and we ought not to relax in our efforts till these disadvantageous conditions are remedied, as they can be remedied—at least to a much greater extent than they are or ever have been. Something has been done to meet the emergency; but far more remains to be attempted. Though the enemy may be checked, we must not, therefore, conclude that it is defeated. Cholera has a habit of seeming to retire and again returning to the attack with renewed virulence. We must guard against this.

The vestries and other local institutions have generally done well in the emergency out of which we appear to be passing. They have roused themselves manfully to their work, and have, on the whole, acquitted themselves with credit. We have much pleasure in admitting this much, for we have often had occasion to blame these bodies, and gladly acknowledge merit where it is displayed. But we wish especially to impress upon all members of local boards that their work is only but begun. The task before them is much more onerous than that they have accomplished. They have succeeded in partially staying the ravages of a fearful malady; they must now devote their efforts to the labour of so improving and purifying the conditions under which the poorer portions of the population exist as to render the return of cholera and other such diseases impossible, by destroying the elements that feed and the conditions that favour their progress. Much has been accomplished; a great deal more can be done; and there should be no resting from effort till all that is possible has been achieved.

We are always loth to blame actions dictated by good though mistaken motives, when the results are not of too grave a nature; but to be mealy-mouthed at such a time and on such a theme as the means adopted to stay the progress of cholera would be a great mistake. We therefore protest against the course pursued by some of those who arrogate to themselves the character of the religious portion of the community. Prayer is an excellent exercise in its proper place and proper degree; but prayer without action is like faith without works—dead. And when people give a very large measure of their attention to praying, they are apt to have but a very small degree of energy left for action. The late Lord Palmerston's dictum that white-washing—that is, cleanliness—is more efficacious in staying the ravages of a plague than fasting, is as true now as when it was uttered. While we pray, let us also labour, and that continuously. Let us invoke a blessing on our efforts, by all means; but let us first make quite sure that we are putting forth efforts worthy of a blessing—let us see to it that our exertions are real, substantial, practical, useful, and not mere lip service and sanctimonious pretence.

Furthermore, let not positive mischief be done by making cholera and its ravages a too prominent topic in church and chapel ministrations. It is well known that terror is a great predisposer to disease; and surely nothing is more likely to induce terror in weak minds than to be constantly listening to hymns, prayers, and sermons, the staple themes of which are the "pestilence that walketh in darkness throughout the land," the ravages that pestilence is committing, and the sins which have provoked the visitation—said sins, when stated, being usually against dogmas, and not violations of social duties and sanitary laws. We cannot help thinking that all denominations of religionists are somewhat to blame in this matter, from the Archbishop of Canterbury downwards, whose vague confessions and denunciations of sins and backslidings contain no definite ideas, but which are apt to divert men's minds from beneficial action by inducing the notion that when they have confessed faults they have done enough, and may rest in expectation of aid from above. This is a pernicious thing in every way, and ought to be eschewed. Then there are ludicrous and yet startling minglings of strangely dissonant things. We were again and again solicited by street hawkers the other day to purchase "Spurgeon's Sermon on the Cholera" or—a box of cigar-lights, whichever we pleased: it was all the same to the vender. But it might not have been all the same to persons weak in mind and nerves, and delicate in bodily health, who were continually irritated, annoyed, frightened, and disgusted by

hearing the words "cholera," "Spurgeon," "cigar-lights" everlastingly dinned into their ears in all sorts of tones and by all sorts of voices.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE EMPRESS OF MEXICO has arrived at Miramar. On her way through Italy she was received with much attention by the Italian Royal family.

THE ACCESSION OF AUSTRIA to the Geneva Convention for assistance to the wounded upon the battle-field has been officially published.

COUNT BISMARCK, as the crowning act of the war, is to have conferred upon him the title of Prince or Duke.

THE CHILIAN PRIVATEER TORNADO, said to have been armed in England, has been captured in Spanish waters, and taken to Cadiz by the frigate Gergona.

THE LIVERPOOL SUBSCRIPTION EQUESTRIAN STATUE of the Prince Consort, by Mr. Thornycroft, has arrived at its destination, and is now being placed on its appointed site in front of St. George's Hall. The ceremony of unveiling is not yet announced.

THE MARCHIONESS DE PORNEREU, née d'Aligre, who has just died at Paris, has bequeathed 200,000*fr.* to various charities in Paris.

VISCOUNT BOYNE is gazetted a peer of the United Kingdom, by the title of Baron Brancepeth.

A WIDOW NAMED APPEZECHE has just died at Mauléon (Basses-Pyrénées), aged 106 years.

THE HORTICULTURAL GARDENS are to be opened free every Wednesday during September and October.

THE MASTER OF THE QUEEN'S HORSE (the Duke of Beaufort) has signified his intention to exclude coursing in Hampton Court Park during the next season, in consequence of the scarcity of hares on that demesne.

A GREAT REFORM BANQUET is to be held at Manchester in October. Earl Russell, Messrs. Gladstone and Bright, and other great Reformers are to be present.

MR. RICHMOND, R.A., has undertaken to restore the very interesting portrait of Richard II., which formed, probably, the most ancient well-authenticated likeness at the National Portrait Exhibition, and is the property of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

THE REMAINS OF DR. LEICHAERT, the Australian explorer, who has been missing for several years, have recently been found.

A COMMODIOUS AND FINELY-FINISHED SMOKING-ROOM, for the use of those members of the Royal family who indulge in the weed, has just been finished at Balmoral Castle.

MR. EDMOND BEALES, Chairman of the Reform League, has been deprived by Lord Chief Justice Cockburn of his office of revising barrister for Middlesex, the reason assigned being that Mr. Beales has identified himself too completely with one political party to be acceptable to all as a judge on points on which feeling is apt to run high.

A NATIVE OF BURMAH now in the United States, has instituted a suit at law against an Ohio steam-boat company for refusing him a place at table on account of colour. Damages are laid at 5000*dols.*

A FLAG CAPTAIN, R.N., calls attention to the fact that our fortifications at home and abroad are without guns of a calibre capable of shattering the side of an iron-clad vessel, although the Americans have abundance of them.

THE ANNUAL WELSH NATIONAL Eisteddfod is to be held at Chester on the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th of September, in a large pavilion, capable of seating from 7000 to 8000 persons. Upwards of £400 will be awarded in literary, musical, and art prizes.

THE IRISH NATIONAL PICTURE GALLERY, in Dublin, is progressing most favourably. The collection has been made at an outlay of £10,000, of which sum £6000 has been raised by public subscription.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS has granted permission to the band of the Corps of Commissionaires to play in Regent's Park every Sunday evening to the end of September, the performance to begin at five, p.m., and finish at closing time.

A "LANCASHIRE VOLUNTEER" calls attention to the fact that the volunteers are without kits, although there are heaps of useless knapsacks in the Government stores.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION has continued its sittings at Nottingham, and papers on a variety of interesting topics have been read.

TWO REGIMENTS OF INFANTRY, the 53rd and 61st, are under orders to embark for Quebec, in response to the application of the Canadian authorities for military reinforcements; and, if required, a cavalry regiment will follow in a short time, the latter to be supplied with horses on their arrival in the colony.

THE BRIBERY COMMISSIONS maintain their interest. Those at Totnes and Lancaster are especially piquant. A fellow named Harris professes to have made a clean breast of it at Totnes, and, as a local paper justly says, if he is not a wholesale and scandalous liar, there are very few electors in the borough who are not wholly corrupt.

THE LOSSES suffered by the Garibaldian Volunteers during the campaign in the Tyrol are stated to be 3900 killed and wounded, and 1111 prisoners.

COLONEL M'MURDO, C.B., late Inspector-General of Volunteers, will, it is believed, succeed Major-General the Hon. Alexander Gordon, C.B., in the command of the Second Infantry Brigade of the Dublin division upon the expiration of that officer's period of staff service next month.

A BOTTLE was picked up on Christchurch ledge, on Sunday, the 24th ult., by James Bartlett, fisherman, containing a paper written in pencil as follows:—"Whoever picks this up, please send to Major Hill, Black Villa, Cheshunt, Herts. Off Ushant, boat half full of water; provisions getting scarce; water gone.—RICHARD PERREN."

MR. GEORGE HENRY FRANCIS, for many years a well-known member of the London and provincial press, in the capacities of editor, manager, and contributor, and also as a writer in *Fraser's*, died recently in Paris. "The Orators of the Age," "The Age of Venerer," and "Contemporary Orators," were from his pen. Mr. Francis died at the age of fifty.

A MAN, named George Quick, aged fifty-one, who gained his living in Melbourne (Australia) by bottle-gathering, went to the post-office to see if there was a remittance from his friends at home, and, being disappointed, drew an old pistol and shot himself. In his pocket was found a scrap of paper on which was written, "I die a gentleman."

TWENTY MILLION THALERS, part of the war expenses to be paid by Austria to Prussia, were dispatched from Vienna to Berlin a few days ago by a special goods-train via Prague. The money is all in silver thalers, packed in casks, and in the counting of it twenty persons were engaged for six days. The train had an escort of ten bank officials, twelve servants, and thirty soldiers.

M. FERDINAND DE LESSEPS, the director of the Suez Canal Company, has just obtained a verdict for 150,000*fr.* damages against the *Consellier Gazette des Chemins de Fer*, and the *Correspondance Autographe*, in actions for libels, the principal feature in which was a statement that M. Lesseps' financial reports were "romance."

THE MARQUIS OF ABERCORN made his public entrance into Dublin, on Thursday week, with éclat quite unparalleled, all the available troops in garrison, infantry and cavalry, lining the streets, which were crowded in every part along the line of march. Immense crowds thronged the thoroughfares, and continued loudly and enthusiastically cheering. The earlier part of the day was kept as a holiday in the city, but no breach of the peace was committed.

THE MAYOR OF HALIFAX, at a recent dinner of the Halifax licensed victuallers, stated that an application had been made to him a few days ago by an Irishman for a testimonial of character. The Mayor told him that he had never seen him before. The Irishman promptly answered, "Faith, your Worship! and that is the very reason I come to you. I have never been summoned before you or fined, and you never had any trouble with me."

ONE OF THE MONSTER FARMS of modern times is that of General Urquiza, of Buenos Ayres. It is composed of an unbroken body of 900 square miles, over which countless thousands of horses, cattle, and sheep are grazing. Of cattle the farm sends over 50,000 annually to the slaughter. The horses would supply the cavalry of a large army, and from the wool of the sheep ships are loaded annually and sent directly to Europe.

GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE, a Virginia paper says, is not writing a history of his campaigns for publication, as has been reported, but will publish, in November, a new edition of "Memoirs of the War in the Southern Department of the United States, by Colonel Henry Lee." It was originally published in 1809, and again in 1828, but copies are very rare. General Lee will add a biography of his father, Colonel Lee, and much new and important matter.

METROPOLITAN AND PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.—On Monday next an industrial exhibition, which is expected to be in every sense an improvement upon all which have been held hitherto, will be opened in the Agricultural Hall, Islington. The arrangements are even now nearly complete. There will be a great and interesting collection of articles from all parts of the United Kingdom. The authorities at South Kensington Museum and the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone will contribute a large number of interesting and costly articles. The opening ceremony will be especially interesting: an inaugural address will be spoken by Mr. Hanbury, M.P. for Middlesex, and "An Ode to Labour," written by Mr. John Plummer and set to music by Dr. Spark, will be sung by a choir of about 1000 voices, the solo parts being undertaken by Mme. Louisa Vinning and Mr. Weiss.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

MR. JOHN STUART MILL was asked, at the close of the Session, whether he was knocked up by his Parliamentary labours. He replied, "No; but I am fatigued by the labour of listening to words which said nothing." And no doubt this is the most distressing part of a conscientious member's duty, and Mr. Mill is one of the most conscientious members that ever entered the House. He was present early and late, and seemed to listen to foolish talk as sedulously as if a Plato had been speaking. This was his first Session, and he evidently had made up his mind to learn all that he could of the House and its ways and customs and rules, and patiently to endure, and even listen to, the dreariest of speakers that he might attain his object. And he succeeded; for before he had been in the House a month he seemed to be as much at home there as gentlemen who have been members twenty years. And now I venture to assert that he knows more of the rules of the House than one half the old members. But such steady attendance and such patient attention must have been a great bore to him; and one does not wonder that on the day after the pro-rogation our philosopher took wing across the seas to his favourite Avignon, on the Rhone. Mr. Mill's wife died and is buried at Avignon, and he has bought a house there that he may be near the last resting-place of one with whom he lived so long and so happily, and who, as he tells us in the noble and beautiful dedication of his "Liberty" to her "beloved and deplored memory," was the "inspirer and in part the author of all that is best in his writings." Farewell, then, for a time, to him. May he enjoy the rest which he has earned; and, when the House shall again meet, come forth as a giant refreshed! That virulent old Tory *Blackwood* and the envious and unscrupulous *Saturday Review* have lately been pelting him with dirt. But this will not disturb his equanimity; nor will it injure him in the eyes of his countrymen. On the contrary, all those who have hitherto admired him will love and admire him the more because he is abused by a virulent Tory and sneered at by an unbelieving Sadducee. There is a story told in one of Carlyle's works, which is very apropos to the conduct of these scribes. Somewhere in Germany, a number of people, each with a water-squirt and a pail of muddy water, went out at mid day to put out the sun; and they squirted and squirted, and made the atmosphere so muddy, that the sun's rays were for a time hidden from them; and in jubilant tones they shouted, "There, there! we have put out the sun!" But soon the mud fell down upon the squirts, and the sun shone upon them as brightly as ever; and the squirts had to retire covered with mud, and ridicule too.

Speaking of John Stuart Mill, I am reminded of the following passage, quoted from the "Koran," in Mr. Mill's book on "Liberty":—"A ruler," says the "Koran," who appoints any man to an office, when there is in his dominions another man better qualified for it, sins against God and against the State." There, reader, only think of that! This passage was written more than a thousand years ago by Mohammed, or, at all events, by a Mohammedan, one whom we are pleased to call an infidel and an impostor. Well, infidel, impostor, or what not, this is a great truth, and a great Christian truth, too; for, although the New Testament says nothing about the selection of Government officials, it lays down principles from which we can deduce no other rule of conduct than that which the aphorism from the "Koran" prescribes. Everybody must see this at once. Indeed, it is questionable whether there is a man in Europe who would deny it; and yet, fancy what a whinnying, what ha!-ha!ing and hee-hee-ing, what shrugging of shoulders and lifting-up of eyebrows, there would be in the House of Commons if some honourable member, after due notice, was to bring this Mohammedan precept forward in the shape of a resolution to guide all Prime Ministers in the appointment of officials! Or, as we are imagining something extravagant, let us imagine the rule carried, and inexorably applied. What dismay there would be on the Treasury Bench! Is Disraeli better qualified to be Chancellor of the Exchequer than any other man in the Queen's realm? Is Sir John Pakington better fitted to superintend our Admiralty affairs; to decide what sort of ships we ought to have, and to overhaul the voluminous and complicated dockyard accounts? Is there no man in England so fitted to be Financial Lord as Mr. Du Cane? Can we honestly say that Mr. Corrie is supremely qualified, above all others, to be Vice-President of the Board of Education? Indeed, we might reasonably question whether Earl Derby himself, confessedly ignorant as he is of political economy, and still hankering after Protection, is better qualified than any other man to govern the greatest commercial country in the world. I hardly know a man in the Government who would stand the test except the Junior Lords; and they might pass, because they have nothing to do but take their salaries, and nobody can say they are not eminently qualified to do that. How would Adderley, the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, stand the test? Think of that speech which he made about Jamaica, and say. And is poor, weak, worthy, weeping Walpole the best Home Secretary that we can find? The truth is, as we all know, that this Mohammedan rule—or, rather, Christian rule, given us by a Mohammedan—is never thought of when the work of filling up the Government offices has to be done—that is to say, the higher offices. With respect to the lower offices, we have adopted a competitive or a pass examination, by which we do secure a general educational fitness; but, as to the higher posts, we have no test whatever. A certain number of offices are to be filled. We have a certain number of men to fill them, and we place these men not with any view to their qualifications for certain posts. Indeed, this would be impossible; for they have for the most part no special qualifications. Some have claims, on account of their political services, for high positions and high salaries; others for lower positions and lower salaries; but very few indeed have special qualifications for any posts. I will give you a few remarkable instances. Sir Charles Wood, now Lord Halifax, has filled almost every office in the State. Has he then that versatile genius that enables him to understand and perform the duties of every office? Earl De Grey and Ripon was first War Minister; then suddenly he was sent, without a day's preparation, to govern India. Thomas John Baring has been in every department, and is specially qualified for none. Disraeli is notoriously no financier; as Chancellor of the Exchequer he has twice failed, but party exigency has once more placed him at the head of the Treasury. The most unfit man in all the world to be Secretary for Ireland is Sir Robert Peel; but Lord Palmerston, to the astonishment of everybody, promoted him to that important post and kept him there. And, lastly, does any man suppose that Lord Henry Lennox has special qualifications for the important office of Secretary to the Admiralty, or for any office whatever in any Government whatever, except that of a Junior Lord of the Treasury, the duties of which are to make a House, and keep a House, and cheer the Minister? Men wonder that our departments are managed so badly. I am astonished that they are not managed worse. They would be managed much worse but for the permanent staff, who really do know their duties; and many of them would be managed better if they had no political chiefs to interfere with the management.

I am sorry to see that, owing to the expiration of their lease, the directors of the British Institution announce that they will be unable to hold exhibitions either of living artists or old masters next year. With all its faults, the institution was as fairly conducted as it could be, and it was always a matter of regret that it did not stand higher. It afforded a chance for artists whom the Royal Academicians, either by folly or favour, excluded from Trafalgar-square. The closing of the institution, for only a year even, will be a serious matter to some, and I hope the directors will take heart of grace, and endeavour to arrange for the usual exhibitions in some temporary manner until they can procure suitable permanent premises.

From the "scientific department" of the Stereoscopic Company is issued a drawing-room marvel called "Oriental Mysteries." It consists of a packet of small chips, each of less size than half the husk of a barleycorn. On being thrown into the water these unfold and expand a little. That is all. "The substance and the mode of

manufacture of this singular production is," we are told by the card sold therewith, "entirely unknown in this country, and is a mystery to the scientific world." The fact is that these chips, as anyone may see at once, are only thin segments of vegetable pith—most probably alder—a little snapped into shape, then folded and dried. The edges are tinted with colour. The company really ought to be ashamed of their agents for putting forward such rubbish as an article of sale and puffing it by such groundless assertions.

The Pantheon Bazaar, so long a loved haunt of the Londoner, is about to be converted into a wine establishment. I hear that the stallkeepers, many of whom have been in possession of their tenements for upwards of a quarter of a century, are in great distress at being compelled to remove. The rents of the counters were collected daily, at the rate of 6d. per square foot, and good character is essential to the tenant. One of the hardest cases mentioned was that of a stallowner who only recently paid some hundreds of pounds for the good-will of a business whence she is now to be ejected. It is said that the conservatory will still be maintained, and that the counter-holders will be allowed the privilege of remaining rent-free for a month.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

If you happen to be a negro, there is no particular merit in playing Othello without being painted black. An economy of pigments is the only advantage gained; and pigments are not very expensive, unless one goes the length of being made "beautiful for ever" by Mme. Rachel. Mr. Morgan Smith, who has been playing Othello at the OLYMPIC, does not realise your Lounge's ideal of the unhappy Moor, in spite of his natural advantages. He is conscientious and sensible—nothing more; and he has an unpleasant way of wrapping up his words in small parcels of three or four, and firing off a speech in the shape of isolated cartridges, instead of making it a general volley. In the third (and most important) act Mr. Morgan Smith was disappointing. Mr. Horsman has a slight provincial accent, which interferes with his representation of Iago, and he plays the character in too free-and-easy a style. Mr. Walter Joyce made one or two mistakes in the part of Cassio which were too much for the gravity of the audience, consequently the audience laughed. Miss Atkinson, who played Emilia, was cordially received and fully appreciated. Miss Emma Barnett, as Desdemona, acted with much grace. The best bit in the play, as far as regards the actors, was the Brabantio of Mr. Maclean. To night Miss Adelaide Lennox is to make her first appearance here, in the comedy of "All That Glitters Is Not Gold." The present management is drawing to its close.

Mr. Toole took his annual benefit at the ADELPHI, on Wednesday evening, previous to a provincial tour, which is to last four months. "Paul Pry" and a new farce were the attractions of the occasion. As a matter of course, the house was filled to the roof; and, equally as a matter of course, Mr. Toole's reception was overwhelming. The new farce "Keep Your Door Locked" is from the pen of Mr. Arthur Mathieson, and was well received.

Mrs. Billington—or, as I should call her, Gretchen Van Winkle—in conjunction with her husband (not Rip, of Sleepy Hollow, but Mr. Billington, of the Adelphi) takes a benefit on Saturday next, the 8th. These real "Adelphi favourites" are sure of the crowded house their energies and talents so well deserve.

The managers of the ALHAMBRA, in introducing some new features in their entertainment, on Monday night, made a change in the musical arrangements which seems to indicate that it is intended to convert this establishment into a comic opera house when the anticipated alteration is made in the laws affecting dramatic performances. The old operatic "selection"—that somewhat dismal array of singers in evening dress who stand in a stiff row from one side of the stage to the other—was taken out of the programme, and its place was supplied with a new and increased orchestra of forty performers, under the direction of M. Riviere, who for four years has had the management of the orchestra at the Adelphi. The band of the Alhambra and the troupe of performers generally are in a thoroughly efficient and perfect state at present.

A new comedy, by Mr. T. W. Robinson, entitled "Our's," has just been brought out, with immense success, at the PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, Liverpool. A local contemporary says:—"Great were the anticipations indulged in by the theatrical public regarding 'Our's,' and we are confident every one's expectation must have been realised. The performance of Mr. Robertson's piece was in all respects a triumph—literary, histrionic, and scenic. As to the literary character of the piece, it is sufficient to remark that it equals, if it does not surpass, Mr. Robertson's two previous efforts. The dialogue is crispy throughout, and there is something substantial in every conversation." At the end of the second act Mr. Robertson was called before the curtain, and again at the close of the performance, to receive the approbation of the audience. I hope we shall ere long have the pleasure of seeing this new effort of Mr. Robertson's muse produced in London.

THE PRINCIPAL THEATRE in Constantinople, worth 10,000,000 piastres, has been destroyed by fire.

A BARRICADE OF BODIES.—An Austrian soldier, writing to his father, says:—"The Battle of Königgrätz turned out to be our worst. As the Prussians advanced to our batteries a bullet struck me in the breast, and I fell down, insensible. Our batteries afterwards retired somewhat backward to a slope of the hill, and reopened a dreadful fire on the Prussians, who, seeking protection everywhere, collected all the dead bodies lying around and formed a barricade of them. They sheltered themselves behind this, and commenced firing on our men. I was in this barricade without at first knowing it. Recovering my consciousness from the bleeding and pain of my wound, I perceived my horrible situation. I was the single living body in the wall of the dead. The bullets struck over me and over me every minute. At last, in my fright, I got so much strength as to be able to speak and to beg and entreat a Prussian soldier standing near me to deliver me from my situation. This man was so astounded at hearing my voice that he dropped his rifle on the ground; but in a minute, with the greatest risk to his own life, he got me out of the barricade and saw me transferred from the battle-field to the hospital."

SINGULAR DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS.—Considerable excitement has just been caused by the discovery, near Elton, and between that place and Farnham, of some curious archeological remains, consisting chiefly of human and other bones and implements of war, which, from their unusual quantity and strange combination, are likely to test the knowledge of the antiquary and to open up a wide and interesting field for discussion as to the period to which they belonged and the reason for their interment in a spot which centuries ago formed part of an extensive forest. The place of sepulture was discovered by some men who were digging for gravel in a field adjoining the turnpike road, belonging to Mr. J. Glendinning, of East Oatley Vale, who, immediately on hearing of the discovery, caused the place to be carefully explored, and the result has been that no less than ten skeletons have been excavated, together with several bones and iron ornaments, the ribs and head of a horse, several arrow-heads of iron and steel, and four swords with cross hilts, one of which is broken. There is also a monile, or horse-necklace, consisting of 120 beads of opalised glass. The whole of the remains were evidently deposited without regard to order, and nothing whatever exists to warrant the supposition that the human bones had at any time been inclosed. It is supposed, with some degree of reason, that they were placed together in a large pit, which must have been about 6ft. in depth. On being exposed to the air the bones crumbled to dust. Several conjectures are afloat respecting the remains; but, in the absence of any authentic records, they are generally unsatisfactory. The owner of the field has since communicated with Dr. Arthur Fitzgerald, a gentleman in the neighbourhood, who is well known for his antiquarian attainments and research, to whose inspection the remains have been submitted; and that gentleman has pronounced them to belong to the thirteenth century, probably about the reign of Henry III. or his successor. This conclusion renders the discovery most interesting, for, although no record exists of any conflict in the neighbourhood which might at once account for the number of skeletons, yet it is a singular coincidence that about this spot the celebrated robber Edwin Godard took up his abode after having been disinherited and outlawed, with other adherents of Simon, Earl of Leicester, for refusing submission to King Henry III. The spot also agrees with the description given of the den of the outlawed Knights between the town of Elton and the castle of Farnham, where Godard, in 1267, withdrew with his men and ravaged the country, especially preying on the lands of those who adhered to the King. Further excavations are now being carried on which will probably throw more light upon the extraordinary discovery that has just been made.

FINE ARTS.

MR. HUGHES'S PICTURE OF THE RIOT IN HYDE PARK.

EVER since the time when Mr. Hughes, in his advertisements of his picture, "The Catastrophe in the Cathedral at Santiago," challenged comparison with some of the Old Masters, we have had a desire to view his gallery; and now the slack season and the announcement of a new work, "painted against time" by "the swiftest painter of the age," have combined to induce a visit.

We must confess to considerable disappointment. We did not expect to see anything like the grand pictures promised by the advertisements, but we anticipated far less amusement than was afforded by our inspection of the pictures. The power of painting against time hardly compensates for the absence of qualities which are absolutely necessary to make a good picture. Crudeness of colour, defective drawing of the figure, and an entire absence of aerial perspective are not minor faults, but they are just the faults which arise from "painting against time." In some portions of his work there are evidences of better things than Mr. Hughes has allowed himself a chance of performing. Some of his figures are so carelessly drawn as to be ridiculous, and his horses are such as a schoolboy might draw. A laudatory handbill or catalogue, which is presented to the visitor to the picture, announces that it contains "about as many finished figures as those pictures which generally take five years to accomplish." Of the number of the figures this is, perhaps, an underestimate; but we doubt the applicability of the term "finished," unless it is intended to describe the dilapidated condition of many of the constables and rioters.

"The Great Tragic Picture of the Chili Catastrophe," is even more sensational but scarcely more successful, reminding us somewhat of those conflagrations on canvas with which beggars in the streets, professing to have lost their property, and sometimes limbs, by fire, appeal to the charity of the passer-by.

There are in the gallery, besides these two principal works, upwards of three hundred smaller pictures and sketches. From these we should be inclined to think that with a little more painstaking and patient study Mr. Hughes might do yet better things. He would be wise to abandon the baleful ambition to be "the swiftest painter of the age." Art cannot be taken by violence. She must be wooed in a lifetime of devotion, with earnestness and patient study. Slapdash and slovenliness repel her.

We would also recommend a little more modesty of language in catalogues and in advertisements. Self-praise is no recommendation, except possibly to music-hall singers or nigger minstrels. It is damaging to an artist. It would be better for Mr. Hughes—if he could be brought to see it—to have sold a good picture in England for a moderate sum than to have obtained from the owner of a mine in Chili "the highest price ever paid for a picture—in South America." If it be better to be second man at Rome than first man at Mantua, how much better to be a humble but recognised member of the British school than the principal artist of Santiago?

FATAL ACCIDENT ON MONT BLANC.—The first fatality of the Alpine season is reported to have happened to a party descending Mont Blanc on the 23rd ult. Sir George Young, his two brothers, and a cousin, had made a successful ascent to the summit and were descending, when a mass of snow gave way and the youngest of the party was precipitated from an immense height and killed on the spot. The accident was observed from Chamounix, a number of guides were at once dispatched to the fatal spot, and they were fortunate enough to recover the body of the luckless young gentleman. Without guides, it appears an almost incredible imprudence on the part of the travellers to have dispensed with the ropes.

THE FIRST OYSTER-EATER.—Once upon a time—it must be a prodigiously long time ago, however—a man of melancholy mind, who was walking by the shores of a picturesque estuary, listening to the monotonous murmur of the sad sea waves, espied a very old and ugly oyster, all covered over with parasites and seaweeds. It was so unprepossessing that he kicked it with his foot, and the animal, astonished at receiving such rude treatment on his own domain, gaped wide with indignation. Seeing the beautiful cream-coloured layers that shone within the shelly covering, and fancying the interior of the shell to be beautiful, he lifted up the "aged native" for further examination, inserting his finger and thumb within the shells. The irate mollusc, thinking, no doubt, that this was meant as a further insult, snapped its pearly door close upon the finger of the intruder, causing him some little pain. After releasing his wounded digit, the inquisitive gentleman very naturally put it into his mouth. "Delightful!" exclaimed he, opening wide his eyes. "What is this?" and again he sucked his thumb. Then the great truth flashed upon him that he had found out a new delight—had, in fact, accidentally achieved the most important discovery ever made up to that date. He proceeded at once to the verification of his thought. Taking up a stone, he forced open the doors of the oyster, and gingerly tried a piece of the mollusc itself. Delicious was the result; and so, there and then, with no other condiment than the juice of the animal—with no creaming brown stout or pale chablis to wash down the repast, no nicely-cut, well-buttered bread—did that solitary anonymous man inaugurate the oyster banquet.—*Bertram's Harvest of the Sea.*

THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.—On Saturday afternoon a fatal accident occurred on the Great Eastern line of railway about a mile and a half from Ely. The train to which the casualty happened was a weekly excursion-train to Yarmouth and Lowestoft from Peterborough and intermediate stations, leaving the latter place at 2.30 p.m. It was not a large one, but was well filled with passengers. It proceeded in safety until near the junction a little distance from Ely, where, from some cause at present a mystery, the engine suddenly, in rounding a curve, left the rails, and, after tearing up the permanent way for some yards, fell over on its side in a place where gravel had been excavated for the formation of the line. Just as it quitted the rails the fireman jumped off, and was but slightly injured by the leap; but the driver, William Brown, remained on his engine up to the moment when it was overturned and was instantly crushed to death. The carriages were thrown over each other in a way which caused infinite alarm to the passengers, only two of whom were severely injured; all were more or less shaken. The guard, whose van was a complete wreck except the flooring, was very much shaken and bruised, and was brought home to Peterborough, where he was conveyed to the infirmary, and is progressing favourably. The other two persons to whom we have alluded were moved to the nearest inn, where they received every attention, but it is feared that their recovery is doubtful. The driver, Brown, is greatly respected, and was one of the company's oldest and most trustworthy servants. By aid of a strong staff of men, the line was soon satisfactorily repaired to admit of the resumption of traffic.

KEW GARDENS.—Of all the public pleasure-grounds belonging to the capital towns of Europe we know not one which for beauty and variety comes up to our own at Kew. To those long pent in the most populous and murky of cities this delectable land offers the means of enjoying within a small space country pleasures suited to all tastes. Those who prefer dressy gardens find here stately gravelled walks, ample, smooth-shaven lawns, odoriferous beds of gorgeous flowers, orange-trees, ferneries, and palmhouses, giving a glimpse of the vegetation of the tropics. Others may saunter by the river, under the shade of noble trees, and paths so secluded that the squirrel (last of the *fera natura* left us in the metropolitan regions) disports himself there in ease and safety. Many who cannot spare the time or money to leave their business in London for any long period, but can command the few shillings necessary for the transit, show their appreciation of these delights by thronging the gardens with their families on Sunday afternoons, and impatiently awaiting the unclosing of the gates on every fine summer holiday. It is pleasant to see it thus enjoyed, and were this the whole aim and object of the establishment of the Royal Botanic Garden one would admit it was fulfilled. But is there nothing more to be done? Apart from its importance in a scientific point of view, we cannot but think that one reason for keeping up this magnificent garden is, or ought to be, to spread and encourage and give facilities for the practice of horticulture in all classes. Is this done at Kew? On the contrary, the greatest jealousy is evinced in guarding its treasures from all but the eyes of neighbours and frequenters of the garden. Millions of cuttings, slips, and seeds are every year wantonly burnt or made away with, rather than the public should in any way get at them. Heaps of lovely blooms and fronds which would cheer many a sick-room and humble home are recklessly consigned to the manure-pit. It is obvious that rules must be made and rigidly enforced to prevent that which is the property of all becoming a prey to the covetousness of a few; and every means must be used to hinder the gardeners from trafficking either openly or surreptitiously in the plants or flowers under their charge. But some method might easily be devised for allowing the public to profit a little more than they now can by an establishment for which they pay. Applications might be received at certain seasons by an officer appointed for the purpose, and tickets of permission to purchase issued by him; or notices put up on the gates when any surplus plants or seeds were to be disposed of. The extra trouble and expense would surely be more than compensated by the payments of a flower-loving community like our own, and the bad moral effect of such an example of churlish and wanton waste would be done away with. A nursery-gardener whose object it is to keep up their price by rendering his new plants scarce may act thus; but it is unworthy of a great national establishment.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE FRENCH GREAT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION BUILDING.

We have already published a large engraving showing the plan of the magnificent building now in course of erection in Paris for the Great International Exhibition of 1867; and now that the principal portions are approaching completion, we are able to show our readers the present aspect of the grand nave, one of the most superb attempts ever satisfactorily realised. This enormous nave is 107 ft. wide and nearly 82 ft.

high. The great pillars, of which there are eighty-six pairs, are each more than 84 ft. high, 3 ft. by $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. at the base, and 3 ft. by nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. in the central portion, between the sill plate of the clerestory to the springing of the great arched girders. The plate used is generally $\frac{1}{4}$ in., but the straps and stay plates are $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in thickness. The great girders, which are of course eighty-six in number, subdivide a chord of 109 ft., and have a section of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. square. The great tension rods above the girders are put together in three lengths, and are full 116 ft. long from end to end. To complete the chief dimensions of this greater exterior ring of the

building, it must be stated that the outer circumference of the grand nave or machinery court is about 4450 ft.

About one fifth of the great pillars with their arched and running girders, ties, and sill-plates, were in place in the last week of May, and the corrugated—or, as they are called, undulated—iron roof plates were got up. A considerable number of the smaller pillars of the lateral courts of this portion, with their lattice girders and brackets, were up at the time mentioned, and the outer colonnade or marquise, as it is termed in France—it is, in fact, a jutting roof bracketed, but without pillars—began to present

a very pretty appearance. Few of the features of the new exhibition promise to be more striking than this exterior covered promenade, approaching one mile in length, and more than 22 ft. in width, having the park of the exhibition beyond it, and cafés, restaurants, and places of refreshment of every kind and of all countries in the rear.

The whole of this grand nave, and of the two zones which serve the purposes of buttresses to the former, are built of plate iron riveted together, the only exceptions, as far as we are aware, will be the window frames, flooring, and probably the lower panelling.



THE WORKS IN THE CENTRAL NAVE OF THE GREAT INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION BUILDING AT PARIS.

Of the eighty pairs of enormous pillars of the grand nave, or great machinery and processes court, nearly the whole are now in their places. These huge wrought-iron pillars, it may be mentioned, weigh more than eight tons each. A considerable portion of this immense gallery is completed as far as the framework, and the roof is being rapidly covered in; the window-frames—or, rather, the iron arcades in which the frames are to be placed—are commenced; the outer gallery, with its arcade, and the first inner gallery, forming, as already stated, the buttresses of the great nave, are being completed as fast as the main pillars are got into place, and a portion of the arcade is already covered with its corrugated roof plates. The intermediate galleries, the cast-iron portion of the building which forms the two galleries between those already mentioned and the inner

circle of masonry forming the art-galleries, may be said to be completed as regards columns, girders, and all the main pieces; and the glass and woodwork of the roofs, the louvre boards, gutters, and other parts are being rapidly proceeded with. The walls of the inner galleries are all up, and a considerable portion of the front towards the central garden is plastered, and even the ornaments of the entablature are in their places; some of the salons, or divisions of the retrospective gallery, the inner circle of this portion, are already plastered, and the roof is being put on, and, in some cases, the glazing has been commenced here also. The rooms to be devoted to the fine arts proper are of magnificent proportions, and those in the straight portions of the building will form noble picture galleries; but it must be admitted that those in the circular ends are far less

one corner of the park the lakes for the horticultural exhibition are being formed; in another corner the walls of a small church, with transepts, and pierced with innumerable windows, attracts general curiosity. This latter building is erected by the subscriptions of a number of churchmen to receive stained glass, sculpture, and ecclesiastical objects of all kinds; the idea of thus exhibiting such productions, as it were, *in situ*, cannot be too highly commended, the grand defect of almost all great exhibitions, so far as objects of art are concerned, being the want of harmony in the surroundings. In this ecclesiastical sanctuary this error will be entirely avoided, for, of course, nothing will be admitted within its walls but what is strictly in keeping with it and all its contents. Lastly, the railway station, which is just without the Exhibition grounds, is beginning



"ALTUAN HOLIDAYS"—DRAWN BY M. MORGAN.

to show itself, and many other portions of the whole plan are in a state of more or less forwardness. Undoubtedly much still remains to be done, but the works are now in a state which leaves no room whatever for apprehension. Further, it may be stated that, with the exception of two countries, Spain and Italy, all the foreign commissioners have taken the steps required of them by the Imperial authorities, and it is to be hoped that, in spite of difficulties at home, they will not be defaulters. Austria and Prussia have long since sent in not only their plans, but the list of their exhibitors, and all the materials for their catalogues.

AUTUMN HOLIDAYS.

It has always been a source of wonder to me that people should ever run away into remote solitudes, and call that taking a holiday. Just as if London wasn't lonely enough to render it incumbent on us to see something of our fellow-creatures once a year, when we have a little leisure to be kind, and hospitable, and communicative, and to own a common origin and a common lot.

The poet who longed for a lodge in some vast wilderness was a poor, melancholy gentleman, to whom the innocent delights and the harmless pleasures of society would have been the fittest medicine. He had better have taken lodgings in Regent street, and have gone down to Margate in the season. I'm not sure whether he wouldn't have been the better for an occasional visit, not to the "boundless continuity of shade," but to the bounteous contiguity of some adjacent "shades," which may be found in most London neighbourhoods, and where a pint of fruity port, shared with a sober acquaintance, might have brought up the melody of his gentle soul to a truer concert pitch, and so made it more amenable to the great harmony of nature.

People talk of Nature as though human nature had nothing to do with it; whereas, let any healthy-minded man find himself rejoicing in the beauty of natural scenery, rapt in the contemplation of some vast mountain range, lost in the immensity of the illimitable sea, contemplating the glory of that sky where the best scenery is to be found—jasper mountains, emerald bowers, lakes of molten silver, golden strands, and the like—let him, I say, be ever so much impressed, confounded, heartstricken with these mighty dumb influences of what we call the external world, and he will, if he be a true man, yearn for human sympathy to share his transport, another human voice to echo his solemn praise. I saw, only last Sunday, such a marvellous sight in the sky as is seldom witnessed within the smell of London smoke; and, as I stood looking at it, there came a working man and his wife and child, and stared at it too; and at last the sense of glory and wonder grew too strong for either of us to bear by ourselves, or else it brought us close together in common humanity and the sense of littleness that one feels at such a spectacle. We and many other people, perfect strangers, stood and talked together on that common ground, and, when we parted, felt the better for the communion which we all had in the great temple.

Only the other day, as the rain was pouring down in an almost ceaseless torrent, looking out from the door of a steaming omnibus in Cheapside, I saw the wettest and most miserable little dog that it was ever my lot to set eyes on. A poor, trembling, half-blinded, bewildered, drenched puppy, for whom there was no place in that great, cruel, awful thoroughfare. He may have sought shelter in some doorway, and, having been kicked thence, found himself, without strength to yelp, amongst the hurrying feet of relentless passengers, too wet and too busy with their own affairs to regard the sorrows of an ownerless cur; he may have been suddenly lost from some protecting string, while his mistress waited to put up an umbrella. Whatever may have been his previous condition, he was utterly forlorn, and he walked deliberately out into the road, and stood looking wistfully at the footway, waiting for a carriage-wheel to end his misery.

That dog, amidst all the great, awful traffic of the city roadway, the roar and bustle that sounds round the dome of St. Paul's, seemed to me to represent man alone with nature. It was a humiliating thought, very likely; but such was my fancy, looking out of that Cheapside omnibus. Poor cur! what was the music of the streets to him—the grandeur of the great march that went by ceaselessly and never seemed to heed him? There was no promise in it apart from the love that he had lost, the kind hand that he had, perhaps, half forgotten, the master who had fed and sheltered him. A bundle of tripe and a doormat would have been more to him than all that pageant; and I've no doubt he intended to commit suicide, for even the whip of a hansom cabman, tenderly as it was administered, failed to move him! The moral of which is, that a rush into solitude may be sometimes very necessary and restorative as a course of mental medicine, but is no more to be confounded with making a holiday than a basin of arrowroot in one's bed-room is to be regarded as a banquet. For which reason I boldly avow that I prefer Margate to the Matterhorn, and would rather sit and smoke on the Sussex Downs than make an excursion to the peak of Popocatepetl.

The autumn holiday is one of the very few opportunities that the Londoner enjoys of prosecuting that proper study of mankind for which we have no leisure in this great City. We have no leisure for friendship, to say nothing of pleasant companionship, in London. Our nearest and dearest connections are strangers to us in the race and battle, the turmoil, the ceaseless work and strife that is demanded of us. It is not that we are selfish or unmindful of the regards that we cannot cease to cherish; but they are overborne, thrust aside by the imperative duties of our work-day life, which leave no leisure even for friendly visits, when London has so overgrown that the journey from Hackney to Clapham is an undertaking greater than that from Brighton to Bethnal-green.

So, I say again, let us support the good old resorts, and sit and admire the beauties of nature at the same time that we speculate on the nature of beauties. It's wonderful what a mental and moral as well as a physical appetite we acquire from the sea air, if only we will go to the right places for it. There are plenty of them, thank Heaven! round the coast of happy, social England. Sand, shingle, chalk, rock, jetty, pier, heights, downs, marine library, assembly rooms, bazaars, oyster-shops—where is the place on the rim of this island where some or all of these may not be found, and where the battered cynic as well as the damaged dyspeptic may not have his tone restored?

I vow that even the voice of the bun-man and the jangling music of his bell are quite jubilant sounds to me when I see the enthusiasm of those little brown, brawny, bare-legged artificers, who have begun so very early the life-long art of building castles, strongholds, and possessions in the sands. Yonder enraged politician, whose money article is made confused by the clang, will soon sit under the inflection with as much composure as he will eat a pint of prawns for his breakfast and forget to take his dinner-pill.

The very dogs here are jolly fellows, going after sticks, lobbing out their red tongues, sprinkling laughing groups of syrens as they come tripping delicately down from the machines whence we have lately heard such peals of silvery laughter. How thoroughly the nymphs who have bathed sit and enjoy the latest novel, quite unconscious, of course, of the earnest glances of Jones and Brown, who are "down for a day or two without the remotest idea of meeting," &c.

Why, the Hebrew element alone at our seaside haunts is a thing to sea and to admire. Those children of Israel: how gorgeous their attire, how stupendous their get-up, how marvellous their jewellery, their agate-topped canes, their varnished slippers, their Oriental waistcoats; and, let who will deny it, how broad their genial good-humour and kind charity! To me "the people" out for a holiday, and especially at Ramsgate and Margate, are a source of untiring pleasure and delight; and I bask in the splendour of the apparel and revel in the oiliness of their enjoyment.

This universal brotherhood and expansion of the heart is good for us all. The poor wandering minstrels, the Punch's showmen, and poor Faillasse the acrobat, with his patient wife and homeless child, benefit by it. Do you listen to Signor Twankeydillo's sentimental songs and his guitar accompaniment with a sneer? I hope not. I think every good man, as I am sure every good woman, will hear in one or other of his ditties a tone that recalls something which

will lead to the bestowal of a spare coin on the minstrel. If you should dine at "the ordinary"—which, of course, you never do—you will perhaps sit next Signor Twankeydillo, and learn that his name is Tomkins. I don't know that that matters much. It is the liquor, and not the jug that we regard—the sentiment, and not the singer; and for my part, I would have every holiday to be a sentimental journey, and each one of us ready, not to apostrophise a dead donkey, perhaps, but to recognise the beauty, and the holiness, and the boundless pleasure of the sympathy which makes the great silent world of external nature the beneficent gift of heaven to living men.

T. A.

OBITUARY.

THE EARL OF CRAVEN.—The Right Hon. the Earl of Craven died at Scarborough, on Saturday morning, the 25th ult. It has been his Lordship's practice to visit Scarborough during the season for some years past, chiefly for the benefit of his health, which has been delicate of late. His Lordship arrived at Scarborough this year on Aug. 1, occupying a private residence in the Crescent. Dr. R. B. Cooke, who was the Earl's medical adviser when in Scarborough, waited on his Lordship on his arrival; and, although apparently in his usual health, Dr. Cooke soon observed in him symptoms of diabetes, which continued to be developed until his death. On Saturday, the 18th ult., his Lordship was seized with paralysis of one side—a similar attack to the one he sustained about eight years ago. The symptoms of paralysis gradually abated until Wednesday morning, when Dr. Cooke found the opposite side was seriously threatened. Henceforward his Lordship's condition became alarming. In the absence of his Lordship's family medical adviser—Mr. Prescott H. Hewitt—Dr. Cooke called in Mr. Teale, surgeon, of Leeds. Their efforts were unavailing, as his Lordship sank under the combined effects of the two maladies, and he expired, as before stated, on Saturday morning.

GENERAL SIR CHARLES MENZIES, K.C.B. AND K.H.—The above venerable General died a few days ago at East-hill House, Hastings, at a great age. The General, who was Colonel of the Artillery Division of Royal Marines, entered the Marines as far back as February, 1798, when he was appointed Second Lieutenant. He was attached to Lord Nelson's squadron off Boulogne, where he participated in all the desperate cutting out affairs on the French coast against Bonaparte's flotilla. When Lieutenant, he commanded a detachment of marines, landed at Port Jackson (Sydney) during an insurrection of convicts in March, 1804, and was mainly instrumental in restoring order and tranquillity in the colony; served in the boats of the *Minerva* at the capture, under Fort Finisterre, of five vessels in June, 1806. In July following, in a barge belonging to the *Minerva*, when fifty miles from where the frigate lay at anchor, he captured the Spanish privateer *Buena Dicha*, after a sharp conflict, the attack being planned by the gallant officer deceased. He also commanded a boat at the capture of the Spanish gun-boat at Carril, and commanded the marines at the storming of Fort Finisterre in 1806 and 1807, being the first to enter the fort; served in boats at the capture of the Spanish ship *San José* in the Bay of Arrosa, where he landed and made prisoner the commodore. In command of the marines he assisted at the capture of Guadalupe. He was slightly wounded in cutting out the French corvette *La Moselle* from under a battery in Basque Roads. Among other gallant actions, he served at the taking of Camarinas. During his service he was wounded in his right arm, which was amputated. The venerable officer had received a sword of honour from the Patriotic Fund in compliment for his great services. From 1838 to 1844 he commanded the Royal Marine Artillery. In 1831 he was made a Knight of the Royal Hanoverian Order, and in April, 1855, was nominated a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath. From the King of Spain he received the Order of Charles III., and was also Knight of the Tower and Sword of Portugal. The deceased General's commissions bore date as annexed:—Second Lieutenant, Feb. 17, 1798; Lieutenant, Dec. 21, 1803; Captain, April 18, 1813; Major, Jan. 10, 1807; Lieutenant-Colonel, July 10, 1837; Colonel, July 10, 1844; Major-General, June 20, 1854; Lieutenant-General, June 20, 1855; and General, July 1, 1857.

GENERAL SIR JOHN MICHELL, K.C.B.—The death of General Sir John Michell, K.C.B., of the Artillery, occurred on Thursday week, at his residence in Portland-place, at the age of eighty-four. He was born at Huish, Somersetshire, in 1781, and was educated at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. In 1798 he entered the Royal Artillery, and in 1799 served in Holland under Sir Ralph Abercromby and the Duke of York; in 1813 he joined the Duke of Wellington's army at the siege of St. Sebastian, commanded a field battery at the passages of the Bidassoa, Nive, and Nive, and at the battles of Orthes and Toulouse. Proceeding to Bordeaux, and afterwards embarking for America, he was actively employed throughout the war there. Subsequently he joined the Duke of Wellington's army after Waterloo, and was employed with the Prussian army in reducing the fortresses in the Netherlands; he served on the Staff of the artillery in Ireland 1825-30; commanded the artillery in Canada 1831-6; at Gibraltar 1844-8; was honourably mentioned in the despatches of General Ross from Washington, of Colonel Brooke from Baltimore, and of Colonel Thornton, with whom he was detached to the left bank of the Mississippi before New Orleans. In 1854 he became Lieutenant-General; in 1856, Colonel-Commandant of the fifth battalion of the Royal Artillery; and in 1861 was made a K.C.B. In 1865 he administered the government of Canada in the temporary absence of Lord Monck.

THE REV. DR. EDGAR.—The Presbyterian Church not only of Ireland, but of every country in which that form of the Christian religion has established itself, will learn with extreme sorrow of the death of the Rev. Dr. Edgar, which took place on Sunday last in Dublin. The disease with which he was originally attacked was polypus of the windpipe, upon which a heart affection supervened, which was, we believe, the immediate cause of death. The deceased had been several months under the care of Dr. Smyley, of Dublin, prior to his death. Dr. Edgar had done more, perhaps, than any other member of the assembly for the extension of the Presbyterian Church. During the last forty years fully seven or eight of the meeting-houses in Belfast have been erected by his energy; and throughout Ireland at least fifty of the houses of worship belonging to the Presbyterian Church owe their existence to his persevering efforts.

MR. HALL MAXWELL.—The agricultural community of Scotland, and many of the most eminent farmers in Great Britain and Ireland, as well as on the Continent, will learn with deep regret of the demise of Mr. John Hall Maxwell, of Dargavel, which took place, on Saturday week, at Torr Hall—one of the deceased gentleman's properties near Weir Bridge, a village about six miles west of Paisley. The fact of the death is all the more melancholy that he had just retired, after discharging for twenty years the important and onerous duties of the secretaryship of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, to enjoy the leisure which his distinguished services in the cause of agriculture so well entitled him to claim. Mr. Maxwell died in his prime, at the age of fifty-four, having been born in Queen-street, Glasgow, in February, 1812. The late Mr. Hall Maxwell, who was the representative of two ancient families in Renfrewshire—the Halls of Fulbar and the Maxwells of Dargavel, the former dating their possession of Fulbar from the time of James, High Steward of Scotland, the grandfather of King Robert II., and the latter holding Dargavel by charter since 1516—was educated for the Bar, to which he was called in 1835, and practised successfully for ten years. On the death of the then secretary of the Highland Society—Sir Charles Gordon—Mr. Hall Maxwell, who was at that time a director of the society, applied for and received the vacant appointment. Under his energetic and judicious management the society soon rose to a pitch of vigour and influence which it had never before attained. At the time he undertook the secretaryship the number of members was 2670, and the funds of the society amounted to £34,000. When he left, the number of members had increased to 4200, and the finances to £50,000. The annual shows of the society, under his great administrative talent, showed an equal improvement alike as to the quantities and quality of stock and the number and superiority of workmanship and finish of agricultural implements. One of the greatest benefits which Mr. Hall Maxwell conferred upon Scottish agriculture was in superintending the collection of the agricultural statistics of stock and crops from 1854 to 1857. The annual cost of the collection was estimated by Government at £6000; but Mr. Hall Maxwell, assisted by a staff of some 12,000 of the principal farmers of Scotland, accomplished the work in a very satisfactory manner for about £2500 less than the sum Parliament had voted as necessary. The information thus obtained, being thoroughly reliable, was of the greatest value; nevertheless, the country was deprived of it on a paltry matter of routine, and, in consequence, for the last eight years we have been left entirely in the dark as to the acreage under the various kinds of crop and the precise number of our flocks and herds. For his services in connection with the collection of these statistics Mr. Maxwell was, in 1856, created a Civil Companion of the Bath. Mr. Maxwell was himself a keen and intelligent agriculturist, and on his estate of Dargavel effected at great expense many improvements, especially in the reclamation of waste land, changing a dismal and unhealthy morass into flourishing fields of potatoes and oats and luxuriant pastures. In all his operations, however, he was careful in his calculations that the return should be proportionate to the outlay, which many proprietors are not. Mr. Hall Maxwell leaves a widow and six children—two sons and four daughters—to mourn his loss.

THE EX-KING OF HANOVER.—King George is more tenacious than ever. Only very recently he replied to a deputation from Hanover, begging him to abdicate in favour of his son, that "he held his crown from God, and would only give it back to God on his death-bed." A few days ago only he said to an officer, "In reorganising my army I shall resume the old red uniform. I will no longer allow my soldiers to resemble the Prussians." It has been calculated at Hanover that there will remain to the King a private fortune of fifty millions of thalers. It is supposed that when compelled to leave his late dominions he will come to England and take his seat next Session in the House of Lords as the Duke of Cumberland.

Literature.

The Beggar's Benison: or, A Hero, without a Name; but, with an Aim. A Clydesdale Story. Illustrated by upwards of 300 Pen-and-Ink Sketches. In two vols. London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

The large demand, and consequent production, of novels of all kinds of late years has completely exhausted the old familiar fields and styles of fiction and fictional characters; and authors must have recourse to all sorts of devices in order to attain some measure of at least apparent originality and command some amount of attention. Among the style of works called for by the emergencies to which we have referred, is what may be denominated the novel of locality—a tale told with the view of delineating the manners, customs, practices, prejudices, principles, and peculiarities of some particular place; and the book before us is a favourable specimen of this class of story. The hero begins life in the Goosebushes of Glasgow—than which we defy any city in the world to show a dirtier, viler, more criminal-haunted, and poverty-stricken den—amidst—as he himself says (for the work is cast in the form of an autobiography)—"smoke, squalor, fumes, filth, vice, venality, noise, nastiness;" and, as subsequently appears, in a moral atmosphere still fouler than the physical one thus described. His mother, the wife of a sailor absent at sea, lives with a man who—well, is not her husband, of course; the said *quasi* stepfather, who is known as "Roger the Rifler," is a thief, a housebreaker, and—something worse, perhaps. He and a comrade, Barney Brogan by name, commit a daring burglary, are tried "before the Lords" at Glasgow, and, as the law then was, condemned to be hanged; which sentence is in due time carried out at the ordinary place of execution in front of the South Prison, the mother barely escaping a like fate. The hero—who has obtained the blessing (or benison) of a begging fortune-teller (hence the title of the book) and his only other relative, a sister ("Sissy," as she is known throughout the story), are thrown upon their own resources for a time, and live by such picking and stealing as opportunity offers.

These are the circumstances and surroundings from amidst which the nameless hero raises himself by a steady adherence to his aim—that of making money—and ultimately becomes a "merchant and a magistrate," a millionaire, a landowner, the husband of a noble-born wife, and the father of a titled son! Into the means and the steps by which this end is attained we cannot enter. They are all minutely detailed in the course of the two volumes; but we may mention that the lucky hero's most prominent qualities were smartness in business, plodding perseverance, selfishness, suppleness, subserviency, and assiduous waiting upon rising stars. In these qualities, and in the scenes and characters described, we presume we are to understand that a fair picture of men and life in Glasgow about half a century ago is set before us. Well, we daresay the canvas, though somewhat overcharged, may in essentials speak truly. At all events, we ourselves, whose recollections of the mercantile capital of Scotland extend a little beyond a quarter of a century, can recognise touches of truth in the pictures laid before us. All the merchants of Glasgow are not, as the author of this book insinuates, mere wealth-worshippers, money-grubbers, guttlers, guzzlers, canters, and hypocrites; but there is, we fear, a considerable infusion of these characteristics among them.

Of the accuracy of the author's local knowledge, and the truthfulness of his topographical descriptions, there can be no doubt. Many of his delineations bring back scenes to our own recollection as freshly as though we had witnessed them but yesterday. Of this nature, especially, are the descriptions of the opening of the assizes, and the trial in the Justiciary Courthouse. It fell to the lot of the present writer, when a lad, to pass his literary novitiate in reporting trials in that very Courthouse; and he is, therefore, well qualified to judge of the accuracy of the author of the "Beggar's Benison" as regards this and many other matters. In fact, the book is an exceedingly interesting book to one who knows the locality and the types of character portrayed; but we fear it is much too prolix to suit general readers. The story could have been told, and told more effectively, in half the space; and surely it was unnecessary to inflict upon the reader reports of the Rev. Mr. Sifter's sermons and the Rev. Dr. Gust's prayers. Then, as another fault, there is a sort of school-masterish pedantry of style about the book and a most preposterously "high" system of punctuation, which are exceedingly objectionable. The punctuation, especially, is ludicrous at times; and we would make a heavy bet that, were anyone gifted with a clear, distinct, flowing style of enunciation to attempt to read the book aloud according to the punctuation, he would have contracted a habit of stuttering or of speaking like a person afflicted with asthma ere he had gasped through half his task. Take, for instance, the following passages, which are not the most pointed that might be selected:—

Monsieur Passeul and his fiddle, attended by a blind man carrying a bass fiddle, whom I had seen and heard a hundred times before, on the streets, enchanting the citizens with his music, and attracting from their kindly hands, to an old hat, that was carried by a little girl, in a ragged dress, coppers in general, and occasionally a sixpence.

I resumed conversation with Miss Gentle, who, by-the-by, in justice to, I must tell, had conducted herself very differently to most of the company, including even her pupils, the Misses M'Chuckie and Tweel, for she partook of the good things but sparingly, and without any particular selection, with the exception that she seemed to prefer what was plain, to what was rich.

We could point out other blemishes—such as designating the ladies as the "more estimable portion of the sexes;" writing "condescendence" for "condescension;" using such a phrase as "seer of the poet"—whatever that may mean; and such like. But we forbear. We would, however, recommend the author to carefully verify his quotations in future, and so avoid such blunders as this: "Funeral baked meats coldly furnishing forth a marriage feed." Shade of Shakespeare! to make Hamlet utter such bathos as that! Still, with all its faults, the "Beggar's Benison" is an interesting and well-written novel of locality, and as such we recommend it to all who know the Scottish city of founderies, funnels, factories, and fuddling. By-the-by, the pen-and-ink sketches by which the work is illustrated are often exceedingly graphic, and show a strong dash of humour in the artist, who, we suppose, is also the author; and the appendices contain some curious information.

Armada. By WILKIE COLLINS. With Twenty Illustrations by G. H. Thomas. 2 vols. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

The first effect of this book upon the mind is downright grotesque. The title is romantic—"Armada"—which, if it did not suggest Armadillo, would remind one of Avondale, Alvanley, Almanzar, Alcanzar, Alonzo, Adolphus, and the rest of such pretty names. Then, stamped in gold on the cover, is a fairylake yacht, with stars overhead, and Miss Gwilt, in the shape of a serpent coiling around it. Open the volume, and you are immediately struck by the extreme vulgarity of the illustrations, there being only one—"My Brothers the Dogs," opposite page 84 of volume I.—upon which the eye can rest with complacency. Next, perhaps, you read the dedication:—"To John Forster, in acknowledgment of the service which he has rendered to the Cause of Literature by his *Life of Goldsmith*" (and in remembrance of an old friendship). "Fore Heaven! this is a more excellent song than the other! What is the 'Cause of Literature?' And what can be more utterly incongruous than this association of 'Armada' and Goldsmith? Mr. John Forster says, if we remember rightly, that we turn to Goldsmith with affectionate benedictions again and again, because he reconciles us to human nature. Is that what Mr. Wilkie Collins does? Do old Bashwood and Miss Gwilt make us feel better or happier? Can any human being lay his hand on his heart and say the reading of 'Armada' has refreshed him? But we turn the leaf and come to the preface:—"Estimated by the claptrap morality of the present day, this may be a very daring book. Judged by the Christian morality which is of all time, it is only a book that is daring enough to speak the truth." We assure Mr. Collins that we think the "development," as he puts it, of "modern fiction" is, like all

other art-development, foolishly and feebly "restricted" in the present day, and that we do not think he has written an "immoral" book. It is simply coarse, vulgar, wholly of the outside. Its "morality" is, we do not doubt, sound enough, and there is a real live clergyman in it; but the whole thing reminds us of table-turning, spirit-rapping, conjuring, and cycology. Our readers will remember that story of the poor old man found half dead of fright under a hedge at Hampstead, who said he had been "cycologised;" and, surely, nobody could have read that story without thinking to himself, "Good gracious! this is just like a bit of Mr. Wilkie Collins!" The fact is, Mr. Collins is always going out of his way to make remarks upon human nature which look like psychology; but they are only cycology. Indeed, he may be called the greatest of living cycologists. His claim to this exalted rank might be abundantly asserted from these two volumes, but one proof will suffice—that delicious passage in which old Bashwood, getting agitated as he talks to Pedgitt of sweet Miss Gwilt, grows moist in the palms and dabs them dry with his handkerchief from time to time. There is nothing opposed to "Christian morality" in this, we believe; nor is there in "the fourth Pouring of the Purple Flask" or in "the covered Apparatus fixed outside the room numbered Four." These and similar matters are merely cycological.

It seems as if there must be some walk of fiction in which so fertile, so painstaking, so ingenious a writer as Mr. Collins would succeed—with a success that would be worth his having. We never read his "Antonina, or the Fall of Rome" (?); but we are assured that it was better than any of his recent works have been, and we can well believe it. Our own opinion is that he ought to write short stories, and short stories only. Now and then, in his worst book, there are good passages; but his "characters" are such utter dummies, such contemptible creatures of straw and sawdust, that to read him at all for more than ten or a dozen pages is, to some of us, next to impossible. It is difficult to avoid asking the question, Is it possible Mr. Wilkie Collins can believe in himself? The following passage occurs in Miss Gwilt's diary:—"I firmly believe some women have cats' tails as well as cats' faces. I firmly believe the tails of those two particular cats wagged slowly under their petticoats and swelled to four times their proper size." Now, it is Miss Gwilt who writes this; and things quite as odd and as ugly may be dropped by any of us in household talk, but they are never intended to go further. And who can read such a passage without an emotion of overmastering disgust? "Armada" has all the usual characteristics of Mr. Collins's writing, and we—heartily wish it had never been printed.

The Gentle Philosopher: Home Thoughts for Home Thinkers.
London: Jas. Blackwood.

The worst difficulties we feel in dealing with this book are thrown in our way either by the author or the publisher, we cannot tell which, at least as to the greatest of them. The quasi-plagiarism of the title and of the title-page (the design is said to be directly copied, and it looks very much like it, certainly) would, in any case, be in bad taste; but, besides, what can be the meaning or the object of it? Is it frank imitation? or designing imitation? or homage? or what is it? We would willingly take refuge in the thought that this title and titlepage business is of the publisher's concocting, and his only; but, unfortunately, the preface contains a false note, which arrests us. The author desires to be taken for a man who can weep for real suffering, but who has no tear for imaginary woes—that is the claim; but it is an absurd one. Of course, a man has no tears for imposture; but if he has no feeling for woes *imagined*, he has no business with literature, or music, or any other of the forms of art which are touched in the book before us. The preface is, in a word, unmeaning.

As to the book itself, considered merely as literature, these essays might not unreasonably expect a kindly word, if it were not for the doubtful points we have mentioned. A book of meditation must be sincere, or it is nothing; and there is not sufficient intensity in these papers to carry off the unpleasant effect of the title, titlepage, and preface. The suspicion that the title is the publisher's doing, and not the author's, derives some force from the wretched sub-title—"Home Thoughts for Home Thinkers." There is nothing particularly domestic about the essays. If there were, it would be hardly worth while to go to Fanny Fern or Mrs. Ellis for the suggestion of a title; and it certainly occurs to us that the author of some of these papers could not be quite so stupid as to do it. We regret that we cannot speak with less restraint and more decision of this little book.

The Life and Death of Jeanne D'Arc, called the Maid. By HARRIETT PARR, Author of "In the Silver Age," &c. 2 vols. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

This is a book which might be recommended to all young readers, but with a strict understanding that it should not be taken as a model of biography. It is very pretty writing, but many of Miss Parr's former pages have been of a higher character. In the main, the narrative must be as near to truth as possible, as it is drawn from the five volumes of authentic documents relating to Joan of Arc, as we call her, collected and published by the Society of the History of France. But, unfortunately, the narrative has a romantic character, and the writer is as one-sided as a ship on her beam-ends. The ordinary passages given in histories to Joan of Arc certainly deserved to be extended; but we cannot think it necessary to translate into English the tedious details of the trial in the French courts—which, by the way, seem to have been far more tedious 400 years ago than they are now; far more unfair and dishonest also. The little that was known deserved to be collected into a respectable form; but French legal verbiage, and the pressing repetition in questioning of our old friend the "wily priest," should have been compressed into a page, instead of being suffered to take up the major part of a volume.

Miss Parr has suffered her subject to run away with her; in fact, it is a runaway match. It is "all for love." The proper legal or spiritual authorities have indeed been consulted; but there is an absence of that domestic common sense which is necessary to tone down marriage into something short of adoration or lunacy. Miss Parr sees everything French to be right, everything English to be disgraceful. She even goes so far as to look upon the Wars of the Roses as a judgment upon the English for their treatment of Joan of Arc! After this, criticism would be idle. It would be vain to tell Miss Parr, citing her own pages, that every person concerned in the trial of Joan of Arc was French; and it would be useless to ask if she really believes that the Maid was divinely inspired, for she seems to look upon everyone who was not divinely inspired simply in the light of a lump of carrion. All along, through the grief as well as through the grandeur, Joan of Arc makes a triumphant march to the gates of heaven via the Market-place, Rouen; and the reader is led to expect that the gates were opened to her instant. True history should stop short of announcing the fulfilment of a martyr's aspiration; and, as a rule, as soon as the subject dies the biography should be finished.

The Profits of Panics, &c. By the Author of "The Bubbles of Finance." London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.

"The Bubbles of Finance" originally published a year since in Mr. Dickens's *All the Year Round*, did much more than amuse the public. It opened people's eyes to the "swindles of the period," and the exposure had much to do with their downfall. But, since that act of righteousness, other villainies have been inaugurated without end. Notably the fraudulent dealings of "finance associations" and "credit companies," and the practices of reckless gangs who "bear" the market and occasion the ruin of thousands whose money might be in reality a safe and brilliant investment. In four or five chapters, each telling a story in the personal and narrative form, these cruel practices are exposed. Bad as these practices are, the schemers are careful enough always to keep within the law; and, until the transfer of stock is on the Liverpool fashion, by the bond fide numbering of shares, shareholders must never feel confident about pocketing their next dividend. These stories, which are amusing in themselves, will serve to put people on their guard and probably save much financial disaster.

THE CITY PUMPS AND WELLS.

DR. LETHBY, the medical officer of health for the city of London, has just presented a report to the Corporation on the quality of the water from the pumps and surface wells of the City, a subject which at this time has an especial interest. In consequence, he says, of the numerous applications lately made to him for information of the quality of the water supplied by the several pumps of the City, he has thought it necessary to report the average results of his numerous analyses of these waters during the last five years. Altogether there are thirty-five pumps in the City, from which the public are in the daily habit of drawing water for drinking purposes; and the quantity of saline and organic matter in the gallon ranges from 26.63 grains to 129.73; that of the New River during the last month being but 17.16 grains, and of the East London 18.18. Only six of the City wells yield water with less than 50 grains of solid matter in the gallon, and there are but two others with less than 70 grains. Ten of them contain from 70 to 80 grains per gallon, nine have from 80 to 90 grains, two from 90 to 100 grains, and there are five wells in the City—namely, those in Aldgate High-street, in Bishopsgate-street, by Dunning's-alley, in Leadenhall Market, in Milton-street, Cripplegate, and in St. Nicholas Olave-churchyard—the water of which contains from 100 to 130 grains of solid matter per gallon. In most cases, too, the constituents are remarkably indicative of the source and nature of the pollution. The wells of the public meat-markets, for example—as those of Newgate, Aldgate, and Leadenhall—are charged with the peculiar filth of those localities; indeed, the water furnished by the well in Leadenhall Market contains nearly 40 grains of common salt per gallon, besides a large quantity of nitre and organic matter, all of which is derived from the hides exposed for sale. The wells of the City churchyards and their neighbourhood are also strongly tainted with saltpetre and ammonia, the former to the extent of from 20 to nearly 30 grains in the gallon—doubtless the final product of the decay of the animal matter buried in the neighbouring graveyards. Others of the public wells show the presence of the more or less oxidised products of substances which had escaped from adjoining drains and sewers; and nearly all of them are so largely impregnated with compounds which had percolated through the foul soil of the City that they are totally unfit for domestic use. Where the soil is well protected and the pump is away from any especial source of pollution, as is the case with the two pumps at Guildhall, the water is but moderately tainted with impurities; but even there it is dangerous to use the water for drinking purposes, for there is no saying how soon it may become foul from a neighbouring sewer or cesspool. As most of these waters are bright and sparkling and have a cool and agreeable taste they are much sought after for drinking purposes; but the coolness of the beverage and the briskness of its appearance are dangerous fascinations, for they are both derived from organic decay. In fact, the dead and decomposing matters accumulated in the soil are partially changed by a wonderful power of oxidation, and thus converted into carbonic acid and nitre. These give to the water the agreeable qualities which are so deceptive; and although they are so frequently drunk without any apparent injury to health, yet it cannot be that the products of such corruption can be admitted into the human body without danger of insidious mischief, and at the present time there is the still greater danger of the impurities of the soil passing unchanged into the water and being a source of quick and certain injury. In illustration of this, Dr. Letheby refers to the remarkable outbreak of cholera which occurred in the parish of St. James, Westminster, in the autumn of 1854, and which was traced to a favourite pump in Broad-street. It was noticed on that occasion that the disease was confined to a small area in the neighbourhood of the pump, and that, of seventy-three persons who died during the first few days of the visitation, sixty-one had been drinking the water. It was even observed among persons who were living in the same street, and occasionally in the same houses, that those only were attacked who drank the favourite water of the pump. But, more remarkable still, it was ascertained that persons who lived at a distance from the parish, and who had the water sent to them because of its supposed purity, were seized with cholera and died. A full inquiry into all the circumstances of the case proved that the well had become charged with cesspool drainage, and had thus acquired its poisonous action. The pollution had, perhaps, been going on for years, and yet the water had not betrayed it until a slight excess of organic impurity brought out its dangerous properties. As in the case of most of the City pumps, its cool and sparkling qualities had gained for it such a high repute in the neighbourhood that it was a favourite water, and was generally drunk. Another case occurred at West Ham, in Surrey, in the autumn of 1857. Suddenly at that place there was a visitation of cholera in a row of sixteen cottages that were apparently isolated from epidemic influences. It showed itself along one side of the street, where in a few days thirteen persons were attacked with the disease; seven of whom died. Dr. Elliott, the health officer for the district, suspected, from his inquiries, that the common pump on that side of the street had been concerned in the mischief; its water was therefore examined, and it was found to be polluted with the sewage from the adjoining sewer. At once the use of it was interdicted, and to make the matter certain, the handle of the pump was taken away; and from that moment the further spread of the disease was arrested. In further illustration of this subject, Dr. Letheby refers to the cholera visitations of 1848-9 and 1853-4, during which time there were two striking examples of the influence of such water in the propagation of disease. The southern districts of London, comprising nearly a fifth of the population of the metropolis, were visited most severely with cholera at both of those outbreaks; and the persons who suffered most on each occasion were those who drank the worst quality of water. The inhabitants were supplied by two rival companies, who obtained their water from the Thames at different parts of its course. In one case the water was charged with a larger amount of organic matter than in the other; and, although the conditions of the population were in every other respect the same, yet this had the effect of augmenting the mortality to a frightful extent. In the second visitation of the disease the circumstances of the supply were changed; the water of the old company, which was formerly the worst, was now the best, and the severity of the disease was changed likewise; for those who partook of the still bad supply suffered as before, and their mortality was three and a half times greater than their neighbours', it being at the rate of 130 in 10,000, instead of thirty-seven, and a similar tale might be told of the cholera visitation of many other places in this country. All these, says Dr. Letheby, are warnings of the danger of using water polluted with sewage, or the drainings from cesspools; nor are the percolations from the graveyards of a city less injurious, for experience has demonstrated that these also are a prolific source of disease. He refers to one instance only, on the authority of Sir James McGregor, who relates that when the British army was in Spain about 20,000 soldiers were buried in a rather small space of ground, and after two or three months the troops who drank the water from the wells of the neighbourhood were attacked with dysentery and malignant fevers. The cause of the mischief was clearly traced to the hardly recognisable impurity in the water from the shallow wells. Here, however, in the churchyards of this City, there are the remains of ten times such a buried army undergoing decay, and in the whole of the metropolis, in a space of not more than 218 acres, there were buried not long since as many as 50,000 dead in the year. In a generation of thirty years this would give us a million and a half of decomposing bodies in the surface soil of London; and through this the water percolates, to find its way into the porous stratum which supplies the shallow wells of the metropolis. At best the change of this corruption is but imperfect, for although the presence of ammonia and saltpetre tells us of an ultimate process of decay, yet it also indicates the more than possible danger which accompanies it. All these considerations, he says, should force upon us the conclusion that water from the surface wells of the metropolis, contaminated as they are with the refuse of drains and the soakings from graveyards, is unfit for public use, and that no natural process of oxidation can render it safe. Dr. Letheby advises, therefore, that none of the water furnished by the City pumps, nor by any of the pumps in London, should be used for drinking or culinary purposes.

RITUALISM AT ST. ALBAN'S, HOLBORN.

FOR some time past the "Church in Baldwin's-gardens," as St. Alban's is popularly called, has been talked about as one of the ecclesiastical curiosities of London, and many people who have passed their Sunday mornings at the less exceptional places of worship which are satisfactory to their conscience, have deemed it a venial transgression to visit St. Alban's in the evening for the sake of hearing the music and witnessing those ritualistic splendours which, however sanctioned by ancient usage, seem eccentric at the present day.

The fame of St. Alban's is not unmerited, and perhaps there is no church in the capital that will give so clear a notion of the extent to which ritualism can go. Either entering a door in Baldwin's-gardens, which is one of the alleys of Gray's Inn-lane, or a door in Brooks-market, the visitor finds himself in a spacious building, abounding in pointed arches, and though the brickwork is visible in the nave this rather gives variety to the picture than diminishes its imposing appearance. Not only is the edifice unlike any ordinary English church, but the dissimilarity is even greater than that of many churches devoted to the Romish persuasion. There is, indeed, no high altar, and no crucifix; but over the communion-table is painted an enormous cross, while above this, as far as the ceiling, rises a series of extremely pre-Raphaelite frescoes, illustrating the passages in Christian history from the Incarnation to the Pentecost as enumerated in two verses of the Litany. The pulpit, which is close to the northern wall, is so much lower than those usually set up, either in Protestant or Romish churches, that a stranger would at first scarcely guess its purpose, and might be induced to fancy that in the service at St. Alban's a sermon had no place. Near the pulpit is a desk, like that used by musicians, at which the Lessons are read, and in the centre, close to the opening of the chancel railing, is a stool, entirely devoted to the Litany, which is not read in the morning service, but forms a separate office for the afternoon. A very quaint clock, almost of the Dutch kind, painted in primitive colours, is not the least conspicuous object in the curious picture. There are, of course, no pews, and the male portion of the congregation is separated from the female, as in the Church of Rome.

As a fair specimen of the manner in which things are conducted at St. Alban's, we may take the ceremonies of last Sunday morning, which, being simply the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity, was no exceptional occasion. The morning prayers having been admirably chanted throughout by a full choir in the chancel, in a manner scarcely distinguishable from that of an ordinary cathedral, the office for the communion began, and here the peculiarities of extreme ritualism were manifest. Three clergymen officiated at the table, attired, not in white surplices, but in vestments of green silk. Censers of incense were constantly waved during this part of the service, and the epistle and gospel were read after the fashion of the Roman Church. The most curious part, however, of the spectacle was the regularity with which prescribed gesticulations were performed by the more devout among the congregation—reverential lowerings and confident elevations of the head, and in some cases crossings, occurring in their appointed places. In these gesticulatory additions to the ordinary attitudes of devotion there is no little intricacy. For instance, during the profession of the Nicene Creed some of the congregation who stood at the beginning knelt during the portion referring to the Redeemer's sojourn on earth, and rose again when they came to the resurrection. Even the sermon, which was very short and very eloquent, bore the impress of the place. The preacher, attired in his green vestment, preached without book on the text, "He fell among thieves" (to be found in the day's Gospel), which he somewhat mystically interpreted by representing the wounded man as an image of the Anglican Church, long fallen among Low Churchmen and latitudinarians, who had despoiled her of her free seats, her dignities, and her observances, and now just in the way of restoration by the Good Samaritan to the glory which has for its exponents refined ritualism, daily service, and a strict observance of ecclesiastical holidays.

After the sermon came an offertory, and then the rest of the communion service, in which not only the communicants but the whole of the congregation took part. Here the censers were again freely used, and the elements were so distributed that the priest, in giving them made the sign of the cross with the paten and the chalice. The communicants were by no means numerous, partly because the sacrament is administered daily; but even to the non-communicants, not one of whom left the church, this was evidently the most important part of the morning's devotion, answering the purpose effected in a Romish congregation by the elevation of the Host. The service was greatly lengthened by the introduction of short verses, which were sung from a hymn-book about as much used as the Common Prayer, and in which the whole of the congregation joined. After the benediction came an antiphon, with which the service terminated.

Although the church is situated in a very poor neighbourhood, the congregation is by no means composed of humble persons. Some evidently belong to decidedly fashionable society, while scarcely any are below a very respectable middle class. The spirit of devotion that pervades the whole assembly is remarkable; and foremost, perhaps, among the devotees are young men of nineteen or twenty years of age, who seem to have the intricacies of ritualism at their fingers' ends. The church was completely filled, the male and female portions of the congregation being apparently equal to each other.

CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH OF NOTRE DAME DE BOULOGNE. The English visitors to Boulogne had an opportunity last week of witnessing one of the most gorgeous ceremonies of the Romish Church. A vast ecclesiastical edifice, almost as large as St. Paul's Cathedral, which has been nearly thirty years in course of construction, was consecrated in the presence of an unusual concourse, not only of the population of Boulogne, but of the country around both far and near, as pilgrims were attracted by "the indulgences" freely granted to all the faithful who "assisted" by their presence in the rites of the day. The great pulpit orator of the Romish Church, Monsignor Dupanloup, was to have preached, but was prevented by illness.

LOSSES DURING THE LATE WAR.—The loss of the second Prussian army, under the Crown Prince, amounts altogether to 67 officers and 1139 men killed, 261 officers and 5541 men wounded, 2 officers and 1885 men missing. Out of these losses the Guard Corps alone contributes 20 officers and 293 men killed, 51 officers and 1499 men wounded, 1 officer and 634 men missing. According to official statements, there remain at present in all the military hospitals under Prussian management still between 33,000 and 34,000 sick and wounded. The number of the former is stated at about 12,000. The proportion of wounded Austrians in the Prussian hospitals to wounded Prussians is stated to be about two to one—or about 13,000 Austrians to about 7000 Prussians. The Berlin *Volkzeitung* says that, at the lowest calculation, the victims of the late short and bloody war are reckoned at no less than 20,000 to 24,000 killed on the spot or since died from their wounds, to which may probably be added an equal number of both parties who have died from illness, chiefly cholera.

THE DISTURBANCES IN CANIA.—According to a letter from Athens, dated Aug. 16, the disturbances in Cania were increasing. The Turks had begun hostilities; and several foreign Consuls, particularly those of Holland, Sweden, and the United States, had suffered considerable damage. The Consuls had protested. The French naval stations in the Levant have received orders to send a ship each to Cania, and the French Admiral's ship has left Syria for the same destination. The United States Consul had taken up the cause of the Canians and advanced their claims with the Pacha, without, however, breaking off his relations with him. The King of the Greeks was expected at the capital on the 18th, and a memorandum to the European Powers was to be issued. The *Pall Mall Gazette* says that "there appears to be a suspicion that the present insurrection has been fomented by an intrigue of the Egyptian Government; but it would be hard to suppose that the condition of the islanders would be much improved by their reverting to the rule of the dynasty of Mehmet Ali, who held the island for some years after the independence of Greece until his cruelties led the great Powers to expel him from the island. Of course, if any gross oppression on the part of the Turks can now be shown, the great Powers, under the treaty of 1830, have an unquestionable right of collective interference, just as they have in other parts of the Ottoman empire where Christian colonies exist. It would be more in the interest of Turkey that they should do this at once than leave the Candian movement to develop itself into a Greek movement. A united Greece, which included Thessaly, Epirus, and Cania, would be a greater danger for Turkey than Russia herself; and whatever may be the means at the disposal of the Greek people, there is no want of will and energy among them to realise their great idea of being a free and united people."



RECEPTION BY KING VICTOR EMMANUEL AT PADUA OF DEPUTATIONS FROM VENICE AND TRENT.

THE KING OF ITALY RECEIVING DEPUTATIONS FROM VENICE AND TRENT.

AFTER the advance of the Italian troops into Venetia, when resistance had been abandoned by the Austrians, and there was a possibility, if not a probability, of the sway of King Victor Emmanuel being extended beyond the frontiers of Venetia proper, deputations from the province of Trent waited upon the Italian Monarch, and besought incorporation in his kingdom. These deputies, accompanied by representatives from Venice, were received by the King in the Sartori Palace at Padua, as depicted in our Engraving. The aspirations of the inhabitants of Trent must for the present be postponed, since they are to remain subjects of the Kaiser; but perhaps ere long their wishes may be gratified.

PICTURES OF THE WAR.

OUR Engravings, taken from sketches made before the termination of the war which threatened to devastate Germany, are still interesting as reminiscences of the most extraordinary conflict, not only

of our own days, but of any age or people; and we need not apologise to our readers for publishing them, even after the events which they record are half way between history and the actual occurrences of to-day.

The campaign of Garibaldi in the Tyrol will remain one of the most interesting episodes of the war in Italy; and it may be that the hero will now hang up his sword, since his country will have achieved all that she is likely to secure during his lifetime; and even the possession of Rome must come by a bloodless occupation, and by the march of events rather than of armies.

Every movement in the gorges of the mountains of the Tyrol produced new and unexpected incidents, and afforded ample material for the artist who accompanied the volunteers. Our Illustration represents the encampment of the 3rd Regiment at Condino, a village situated in a fertile valley on the right bank of the Chies, which falls into the Lake of Idro twelve leagues from Trent. The occupation of this important centre by Garibaldi brought him the congratulations of the Government at Florence. Some days after the entry of the volunteers, General Nicolera, who occupied the place with his regiment, was attacked by the Austrians, but entirely

defeated their attempt—the volunteers remaining masters of the situation.

Our other Engravings represent the proceedings of the Prussians in Bavaria. One of these illustrations is taken from a sketch of the attack of the Prussian force on the chasseurs of the Bavarian artillery who occupied the wood near Uttingen. The Bavarian defence was conducted most ably—a line of chasseurs covering the entrance to the forest and concealing a park of artillery ready for action. The Prussians charged vigorously, believing that they had nothing but the chasseurs to contend with, but on their arrival were received by a murderous discharge from the enemy's guns, which completely thinned their ranks. They did not retreat, however, and reinforcements arrived to enable them to take the position in spite of this first repulse.

The kindness and humanity of the Bavarians to the Prussian wounded was worthy of the utmost praise. One of the most remarkable features of the war was the complete state of the Prussian commissariat, and the regular meals and rations of cigars provided for the soldiers completed the amazement of the Frankforters when the army of occupation paid them a visit. Not less surprising,



ENCAMPMENT OF THE 3RD REGIMENT OF VOLUNTEERS AT CONDINO DI SOPRA, IN THE TYROL.

however, was the perfect sangfroid and easy contentment of the Prussian officers, who, in their quarters in the village farmhouses at Maintal and other places, made themselves completely at home, even though they had to attend to their own domestic arrangements. Our Engraving represents a group of these "swells" engaged in the production of an omelette, to the admiration of the simple rustic folk, to whom that delicacy was unknown in the form which it generally assumes at Berlin.

THE CAMP AT CHALONS.

THE camp at Châlons has been, as usual, the great event of the French season up to the present time; but the absence of the Emperor caused the last part of the programme to fall flatly on the spectators. Apart from this, however, and the regret which it occasioned, there have been the usual brilliant spectacles, the usual distribution of decorations and medals after the manoeuvres and reviews, the usual presentation of colours and speeches on the last day before the breaking up of the camp; and more than the usual ingenious and artistic decoration of theatre, officers' quarters, dining-rooms, tents, and various encampments. As a souvenir of the camp this year, we engrave the monument which was raised by the 3rd Grenadiers—a figure sculptured in a sort of white stone, or chalk, found at some distance from the camp; and is one of the most remarkable of many similar works executed by the artistic soldiers of France—those soldiers who may so often be seen sketching in the Louvre or modelling in clay during their leisure.

The figure represents a Grenadier standing on a bastion, and records the capture of an Austrian battery at Magenta, at the time when the flag of the regiment was planted there. The statue was executed by a soldier of the 3rd, who only requires study to become an artist of no little merit. On the left of the figure were placed silhouettes of the artist himself, in his working dress, of the captain who superintended the execution of the work, and of another grenadier, who is represented in the act of adjusting a piece of ordnance, the mouth of which is seen at the embrasure.

PRUSSIA'S GAINS BY THE WAR.

By the addition to it of Schleswig-Holstein, Hanover, Hesse-Cassel, Nassau, and Frankfurt, Prussia is raised from 19,225,000 inhabitants and 25,650 square miles to 23,810,743 inhabitants and 30,800 square miles. The small territories to be acquired from Bavaria and Hesse-Darmstadt are not included in the above computation. Of trained soldiers there are in the new provinces no more than 64,526 men, who, according to the Prussian standard of conscription, will be shortly increased to a standing force of between 80,000 and 90,000. A large proportion of the men at present embodied in the new provinces will be disbanded as soon as possible, and the gap supplied by so many more recruits. By this means it is hoped that at least 150,000 will before long be available in the annexed territory for war purposes—a calculation which, if correct, would augment the Prussian army to the enormous figure of 800,000 men. Besides these, a proportionate addition will accrue from the 3,500,000 people of the minor States belonging to the northern Bund, the troops of which are now placed under Prussian command. Justly to appreciate the influence which will be exercised by Prussia and its northern allies over the minor States of the south it is only necessary to compare these figures

with the corresponding data on the other side the Maine. The northern Bund has 27,284,734 inhabitants, with an army of from 750,000 to 850,000 men, all organised on the same system, and acknowledging the same head. The south, with only 8,560,000 people, is divided into four separate States, which it is very improbable will enter into any alliance, or, if they do, are sure to display only the same amount of fidelity towards each other as was manifested in the last campaign. Of these States the two smallest, Darmstadt and Baden, are tied to the northern Bund, the one by a

the only business now is to make them understand that clearly, instead of echoing the cries of the agitators. In a few days the King himself will speak, and those who listen, who see, and who are willing to understand, will praise him for following the path he now takes. Material interests, profoundly affected, will recover their prosperity when order and the laws shall be re-established; the Ministry, which merits confidence and not distrust, is labouring unceasingly at propositions to be made to that end. Have courage, therefore, and place trust in the King; Prussia will fulfil her des-

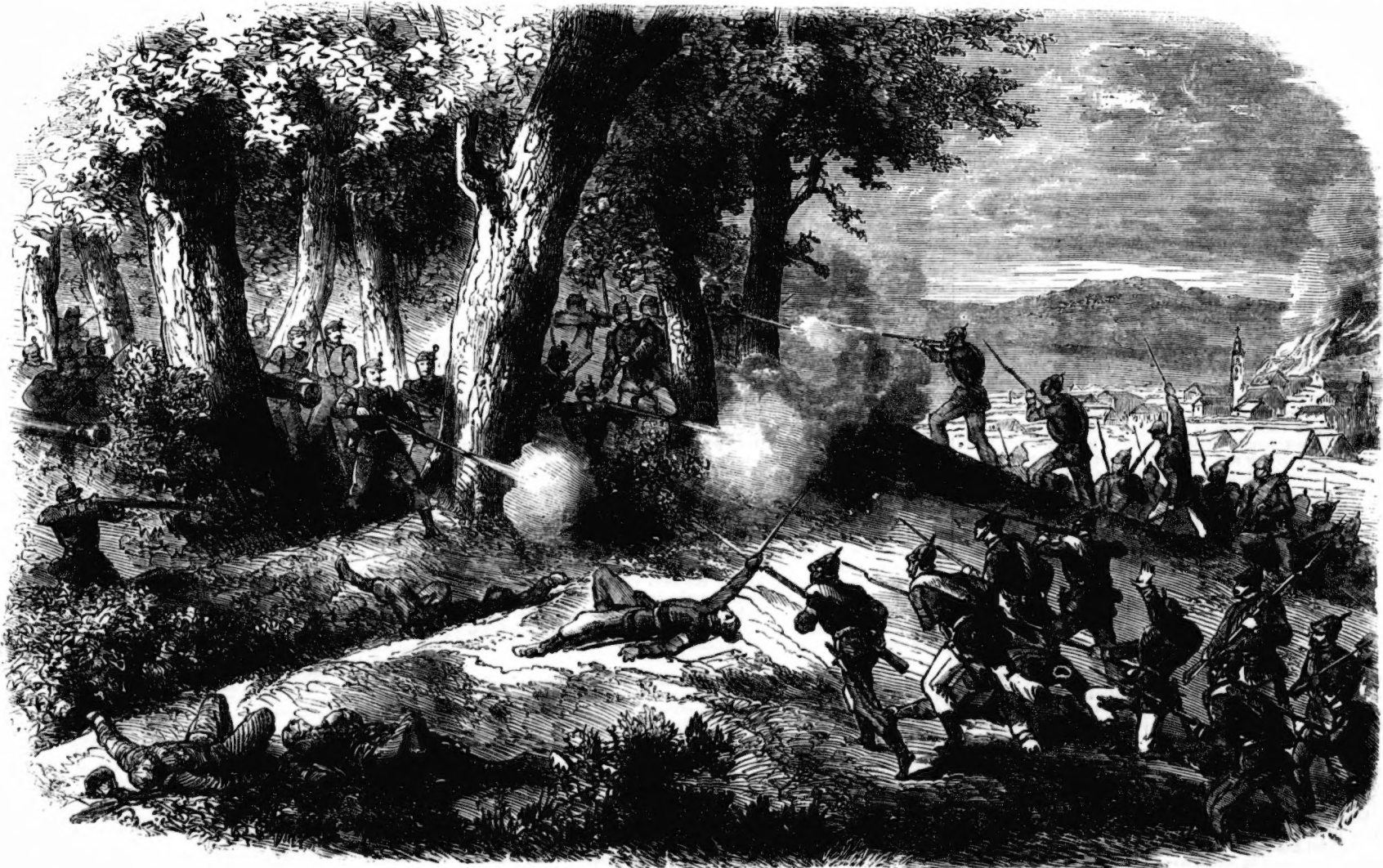
portion of its territory being situate north of the Maine, the other by its Sovereign, together with all wealthy and educated people among his subjects, wishing for nothing better than to join Prussia. In Wirtemberg, the next in size, Prussian sympathies prevail only in those classes which are not Ultramontane or Republican; but all parties equally object to intrusting their troops to the guidance of Bavaria, which is the largest, but has proved in the war to be the worst administered, of the whole quartet. Add to this, that even if united the troops of the four southern States, where the duty of military service is much less onerous than in the north, would amount to no more than 125,000 at the utmost, and it is easy to foresee that in war or peace they will alike gravitate towards Berlin.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA'S PROGRAMME.—

Several of the German journals publish as a curiosity a letter written to a gentleman in Pomerania by the present King of Prussia many years before coming to the throne, and showing what a programme he had placed before him to realise one day. At present the plans spoken of seem to have only received a commencement of execution. The document runs thus:—"Berlin, March 26, 1849. I have received your letter of the 16th of this month, and find in it full proof of your attachment to the King and his family. When you say that the idea of German unity finds an echo in Pomerania, and that the desire there is to see the German Constitution adopted as it came forth from the second reading, I feel more than ever actuated with a longing for that unification. But, precisely for that reason, I have completely decided against the adoption of that Constitution, and I cannot refrain from praising the sagacity of the King in not accepting it as at present drawn up. I request you to ask any persons, no matter of what rank or position, who declare in favour of that Constitution whether they have read it paragraph by paragraph, and, if so, whether they have studied it with sufficient attention, and if they are convinced that the position made for the self-styled Emperor is such as can give him the power and force necessary to realise the prosperity of all Germany. From such an examination the fact must necessarily result that all the power must be given to the Parliament, and that the chief of the State is only a shadow which may be got rid of at the proper opportunity in order to arrive at a republic. The partisans of that form of government know perfectly well that Prussia has refused the crown from those motives, and, in consequence, they have already thrown off the mask, and are striving to attain at once, by insurrection, what would have cost them years of effort, but have led them more surely to their object, if they had created the phantom of an Emperor. Such cannot be the course in which the faithful Pomeranians desire to engage themselves, and



PRUSSIAN OFFICERS IN A PEASANT'S COTTAGE AT MAINTHALS.



THE CAPTURE BY ASSAULT OF THE BAVARIAN POSITION AT UTTINGEN.

tinies; that is to say, she will put herself at the head of Germany, but in a manner promising both permanence and security, which can only be attained by vigour and forethought. By recognising and respecting the rights of others we consolidate our own.—Yours, &c., THE PRINCE OF PRUSSIA."

MUSICAL MEMORANDA.

THE most interesting event of the past week at Mr. Mellon's Concerts has been the début of Mdlle. Carlotta Patti, probably the most attractive concert-singer of the present day. Mdlle. Patti sings (or has sung during the past week) the air from "Linda" ("O luce di questa anima") in the first part of the concert, and a new mazurka in the second, in both which pieces she has been encoored every night. A couple of juvenile phenomena have also made their appearance. One of them, Master Emile Sauret, executes *tours de force* on the violin; while the other, Master Auguste Sauret, displays his virtuosity on the piano. The two brothers are undoubtedly clever little boys, and they seem to be much admired.

We are told now that Covent Garden Theatre is not to remain closed during the winter. After the present series of concerts, it will be shut for a few weeks, but it will be reopened at Christmas for the pantomime season. Whether the pantomime will be preceded by an English opera or by a farce has not, we believe, been decided.

It is most desirable that the authors of literary and musical compositions should get as much as possible for their works; and, according to some authors, it is cruel on the part of publishers to step between them and the public and make a profit on all that passes through their hands. An attempt is now being made in Paris to do away with the publisher altogether and to replace him, since he must be replaced, by the auctioneer. The first trial of this new plan was made, a few days ago, at the Salle Herz, when M. Tagoux, the composer, offered for sale, through M. Lecoq, the auctioneer, a mazurka, a waltz, and a barcarolle. M. Tagoux began by playing his pieces, which were immensely applauded. Then M. Lecoq's part of the business commenced, and, unfortunately, soon came to an end. There were absolutely no bidders for M. Tagoux's

manuscripts. It would, indeed, be very hard if a private individual could not express his approbation of a new piece of music or a new book without being expected to make a bid for the copyright; and we can easily understand that the persons assembled at the Salle Herz to hear M. Tagoux's performance, while admiring his music, may have preferred, one and all, not to speculate in it. It seems to us that, to abolish such a useful intermediary between author and purchaser as the publisher, would be as absurd as to abolish means of communication between guard and passengers on our railways—if any such means of communication existed, which unfortunately is not the case. Artists who formerly dealt directly with the public, get larger sums than they ever received before from enterprising picture-dealers. If picture-dealers and if publishers could be persuaded to bid against one another, artists, composers, and authors might all benefit by the auction system; but they know their own interests too well to be guilty of any such folly.

OUR VAGRANTS.

In the "Judicial Statistics" recently issued the number of tramps and vagrants in England is set down at more than 33,000. It may seem at first sight a harsh judgment to put them among the "criminal classes;" but the opinion of those who know them best—the masters of workhouses and the police—is that most of them are idle profligates, a worthless set of vagabonds who never work, but tramp from one place to another, stealing or begging in the day, and applying for lodging in the workhouse at night. Reports from the Poor-Law Inspectors which have just been published by the Poor-Law Board show that the vagrant class comprises thieves on the look-out, hawkers of steel pens or writing-paper or anything that will serve as a pretence for approaching a house to find what can be obtained by fair means or foul; ballad-singers, travelling tinkers, china-menders, umbrella-repairers—businesses which can be much more profitably carried on if the person be aged, lame, or can gracefully assume to be so, or be successful in just keeping alive a delicate child to excite sympathy. Many of this class are totally reprobate, savage, and violent, and like untamable wild beasts;



DECORATIONS OF THE CAMP AT CHALONS: THE GRENADEER MONUMENT.

and, in fact, they are treated as hopeless, and masters of workhouses desire only to make the best they can of them for the night, and get rid of them as soon as possible in the morning. Some vagrants exhibit a misery and squalor which inspire disgust rather than compassion. They have been perhaps from birth in the lowest grade, and have never been able to surmount the obstacles arising from early vicious association, or ignorance, or inferior bodily or mental organisation. Many are outcasts from society by their crimes, or vices, or unpleasant ways, or unbearable temper, and no one would willingly employ them or work with them. Still, there is among the vagrants a proportion who are wayfarers, honestly moving from one part of the country to another in search of employment. These persons have to submit to mix and lie down side by side with the most depraved and unworthy of mankind, except where a workhouse master is kind enough to place them somewhere apart from the ruck. Of vagrant wards in the night masters of workhouses give to the Poor-Law Inspectors such accounts as these:—"I frequently hear them singing obscene songs, cursing and swearing, or relating some begging adventure. . . . Many of them spend a great part of the night in singing and dancing, and telling each other their adventures and the whereabouts of their acquaintances." The walls of these wards are used as means of communication with "pals," for there are gangs that "work" districts and make their circuits as regularly as the Judges, and know who will follow them. Notices like these may be copied from the walls:—"Saucy Harry and his moll will be at Chester to eat their Christmas dinner, when they hope Saucer and the fraternity will meet them at the union: 14th of November, 1865." "Taffy, the Sanctus, was here on the 28th of November, 1865." "If Dusty Jack calls, tell him to be at the Lord Mayor's show." There is a laureate of vagabonds who writes on the walls scraps of poetry he has learnt, "improved" so as to suit his readers, or doggerel composed by himself; he writes a very good hand and signs himself "Bow-street." An officer is in considerable danger who dares to interfere with these outlaws; and, in fact, it is seldom done: the great object is to pass them on. In fact, vagrancy (says one of the inspectors, Mr. Doyle) has reverted pretty much to the state in which it was when the late Mr. C. Buller issued his circular of August, 1848. In that paper he stated that the casual wards were almost monopolised by the habitual tramp or vagrant who simulates destitution, while the most fitting objects of public charity were subjected to the discomforts that were intended to repel the worthless. He suggested the refusal of relief to all young, able-bodied men who, in the opinion of the relieving officers, were not actually destitute, the exaction of a suitable task of work, the employment of police officers as assistant relieving officers, and a system of passes or certificates to be given to the casual poor for production at their next place of sojourn. But the strict application of the rules laid down by Mr. Buller did not very long survive his death; and poor-law officials soon considered themselves, as they do now, precluded from refusing relief to any applicant who alleges that he is destitute, and in whose possession there is not found sufficient money to pay for his lodging. The reports now made by the Poor-Law Inspectors show the need of reverting to some such system as that recommended by Mr. Buller, and of its being observed uniformly throughout the country. The grant or refusal of relief to able-bodied tramps must be a matter of

discretion; public feeling would not allow an indiscriminate refusal, which, indeed, might make begging necessary to sustain life. This excuse for begging, as Mr. Graves says in his report, should everywhere be done away with, and the most unamiable tramp should have the means of obtaining a modicum of assistance from public sources at a stage of destitution somewhat short of extreme urgency. The exaction of a task of work is a great deterrent; nothing is more distasteful to the habitual vagrant than work. Mr. Hawley is of opinion that scarcely any of the professional vagrants would accept relief if an obligation to work in the morning were uniformly enforced. Dr. Edward Smith recommends three hours' labour, with power to remit a part or the whole where the vagrant is bona fide seeking employment, and, along with this check upon applications, he advocates improved treatment:—healthy wards, provision against over-crowding, bathing on admission, proper bed-coverings, means for the vagrants drying their clothes, a bell in the ward communicating with the sleeping-room of an officer, a supply of food at night and twice in the morning, with power to vary it somewhat with the health, age, and apparent respectability of the vagrant. Some of the inspectors and persons engaged in the work of poor relief are of opinion that the administration of relief to vagrants should be transferred entirely to the police, and that vagrant wards should be established in connection with the principal police stations. Dr. Edward Smith considers it most important that power should be obtained by which more speedy and severe punishment may be inflicted upon such as tear their clothes and make use of obscene or abusive language. Uniformity of system is indispensable in a reform of vagrant relief; and uniformity, writes Mr. Graves, will not be obtained as long as it is profitable to neglect the duty of relieving the destitute and possible to throw the weight upon others. The expenses of suitable relief are not very onerous; but they are unwillingly incurred, because they are bestowed on persons who are considered to have no special claim on the pockets of the local ratepayers. Mr. Graves has come, after much hesitation, to the conclusion that the expense of relieving the wayfaring poor who apply for relief in a union where they are not settled and have no home should be diffused over an area far wider than the union.

BRAZILIAN EXHIBITION.—Brazil will hold, in October, at Rio de Janeiro, a national exhibition of the husbandry and industrial products of the country. Connected with it will be an exposition of agricultural machines and instruments manufactured in foreign countries. The exhibitors of these must pay the expense of transport and cannot compete for the premiums. The articles, if afterwards re-exported, will be free of duty; if sold, they will be charged a duty of 1½ per cent ad valorem.

THE STANDARD WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—An Act to amend the law relating to the standard weights and measures and to the standard trial pieces of the coin of the realm was lately printed. The imperial standards are now transferred from the office of the Exchequer, at Westminster, to the Board of Trade, and the board is to perform all the duties vested in the Exchequer. A periodical comparison of the standards is to be made. From the passing of the Act the stamp duty on the verification of any standard trial piece of the standard trial pieces of gold and silver used for determining the justness of the gold and silver coins of the realm issued from the Royal Mint. The statute repeals in part five Acts of Parliament, from the 5th of George IV. to the 22nd and 23rd of Queen.

THE CROPS OF 1866.

THE following report on the crops of 1866 has just been published by Mr. H. J. Turner, land agent, of Richmond, Yorkshire:—

Again the season has returned to us when our agricultural crops have to be reaped and gathered in, and when we can estimate with tolerable accuracy how far those crops are likely to meet a nation's wants.

I have been recently travelling through various parts of the kingdom, and in the exercise of my professional engagements have myself inspected a wide extent of land and have been brought in contact with many intelligent agriculturists in various and distant localities, with whom I have compared notes respecting agricultural crops; and, with your permission, will report the result of my inquiries and observations for the use of those who may not have had the same advantages.

The weather during this summer has been generally dull, and all grain crops show a want of sunshine, especially in the midland and northern counties, by the absence of brightness in the straw and by the slowness with which the corn ripens.

Great progress has been made in harvest work in the southern counties, where a large portion of the crop of white corn has been safely carried. In the midland counties much of the crop has been cut, and a good deal carried; while in the northern counties reaping has commenced in the earlier districts, none has been carried, and a great deal of grain will not be ripe for one or two weeks yet. It will thus be seen that we are to have a lingering harvest, and I think throughout the whole kingdom it will be a fortnight later than was the harvest last year.

The crop of wheat on good land is heavy; on moderate, undrained, and badly-farmed land the crop is light, and in many places much broken down by the heavy winds prevailing early in this month. Over the whole country I think the wheat crop is nearly but not quite an average one. What has been carried up to this time is perfectly sound, but much of it is not dry enough to grind yet.

The oat crop varies very greatly, and is, I think, scarcely an average one. Barley is an excellent crop—above an average—and in many of the best malting districts the crop has been carried in fair condition. I expect the sample will prove very good.

Beans and peas are an average crop. The prospect for turnips varies considerably. In some parts of Northumberland they have grown badly, while in Cumberland and in Yorkshire the promise of an abundant crop of this most valuable root is greater than it has been for many years. Over the whole country I am persuaded we shall have more than an average crop.

Mangolds are very good, and I cannot help thinking our farmers would find it profitable to have more of this root than they have lately grown. It can be grown when turnips are very uncertain, and when the land is well cultivated, and the seed well put in, the return on much ground is far heavier and the root quite as valuable for dairy or fattening purposes as turnips.

The potato crop is very promising, but very little of the general field crop for winter use has been taken up yet. Thus far very little disease has appeared.

The hay harvest has been a lingering one. Crops were generally good, and when the grass was cut early the hay was easily made, and secured in good condition; when the grass was cut late much of it has been seriously injured.

Pastures are everywhere good, and there is much grass in them. A saddening fear, however, comes over one when looking at some of those beautiful green fields in Cheshire, that part of the luxuriance of this grass may arise from the land being too lightly stocked, in consequence of the ravages of the justly dreaded rinderpest. In a year like this wet and badly-farmed lands show themselves very conspicuously by lateness in ripening the crops, and by the appearance of docks, thistles, and other weeds above the grain, where they are allowed first to perfect and then to shed their seeds.

Farmers, as a body, and old farmers especially, do not move readily out of the beaten course pursued by their forefathers; but one clings to the hope that, when good and successful examples of cultivation and cropping are brought directly under their eyes, they will in time be led to imitate them.

In many districts landowners have introduced improved implements, and have shown by their use, combined with a liberal application of imported manures, that heavy crops can be grown on what had previously been deemed very moderate land. As I write, I have in my mind's eye several such instances. In one parish in particular I have seen for several years the Rector cultivating his glebe farm in the best manner, and showing that excellent crops of all kinds of roots could be grown when such crops had never been attempted before; and in the same parish one of the landed proprietors—a man of high birth—has recently devoted his time, talents, and money to the same laudable purpose; and to my certain knowledge there may now be seen on his farm of moderate land, in a cold part of this country, and 1000 ft. above the level of the sea, crops of corn and roots which fully equal the crops on many of our best farms in the midland and southern counties.

AN ORIGINAL SWINDLE.—The wife of a merchant was walking, a few days since, in the Rue du Faubourg-Saint-Antoine, Paris, when a young girl about thirteen threw herself on her neck, exclaiming, "Oh, my dear aunt!" The lady released herself from the embrace, telling the child that she was mistaken. "Ah!" said the girl in a sorrowful tone, looking attentively at the lady, "I see I have made a mistake!" and she went away as if to hide her confusion. Not long after the lady missed her purse, and all at once the idea struck her that the child might have taken it. She accordingly returned, and after considerable search discovered the child in a wine-shop with her father and mother. They were all arrested, and the purse was found on the mother.

SAD ACCIDENT AT BRIGHTON.—A very shocking accident occurred, on Wednesday, at Brighton. Mr. Taylor, the principal of a boarding-school at that town, went with his pupils to bathe in the sea, at a place set apart by the authorities for that purpose. The tide was low, and they went out a considerable distance to a sand bar. Whilst they were gambolling in the water a cry was raised a short distance off that a boy was drowning. Mr. Taylor swam to his assistance, and with difficulty conveyed him to the shore. He was a son of the late General Clark, and not one of the pupils of Mr. Taylor; but when he had done this meritorious act, and went to look after his own charge they were nowhere to be seen. It is supposed that they attempted to return to the shore, and the tide running strongly they lost their footing and were drowned. The poor little fellows were John and Samuel Dann, aged respectively fourteen and eleven; S. C. Kidd, aged fourteen; and W. D. Bottomley, aged thirteen. The bodies of Samuel Dann and Bottomley have been recovered. Mr. Taylor is one of the Society of Friends, and the deceased lads belong to families of that persuasion.

A GUTTER ON FIRE.—Shortly before eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning considerable excitement was caused among the tradespeople of Ludgate-hill, owing to the following singular occurrence:—A lad was carrying a couple of bottles of naphtha and paraffin oil over his shoulders, suspended by a piece of rope, when the ligature became either broken or untied, and the consequence was that the bottles fell to the ground and were smashed, when the oil ran along the gutter from the Dolphin-court entrance on the hill to the bottom. A boy, in order to try whether the liquid was really spirit, imprudently applied a lighted match to it, and in an instant the whole of the south side of Ludgate-hill presented a tremendous blaze, many of the residents imagining, at first, that one of the great gaspikes had leaked and that the vapour was on fire. Conductor Williams, of the Royal Society, rushed out with a number of pails of water, as well as several men employed by Messrs. Dean, next door, which they poured upon the burning spirits, and thereby succeeded in driving the blazing liquid down the sewer, and prevented any damage being done to the large establishments in the neighbourhood.

A TOWN WITHOUT A GOVERNING BODY.—This rather strange state of things is now existing in the favourite watering-place of Margate, for the corporation that has governed the town ever since 1818 is now a defunct body, in consequence of a recent decision in the Court of Queen's Bench. It appears that prior to the charter of incorporation the town was governed by a local board, and that board handed over by vote (illegally) the whole of its rating powers to the town council, the provisional order only giving the council the power of rating within the borough limits. The council, however, did not act upon their supposed power of rating the outlying districts until last year, when, at the urgent suggestions of some members of the council, a rate was ordered to be levied upon those districts. The rate was resisted, and the result was the case in the Court of Queen's Bench. The decision was against the corporation, and no appeal was made; but the council set about to obtain an act of indemnity and a new provisional order legalising the transfer of the powers formerly possessed by the local board to the town council. Accordingly Government introduced a clause (No. 4) in their Local Governments Supplemental Bill to effect this desideratum. It was, however, discovered by a solicitor of Margate, a member of the town council (Mr. Josiah Towne), that the clause introduced would only give the council authority to exercise the power formerly possessed by the local board within the borough limits, and not over the outlying districts. It would seem that the council, however, were willing to forego this power—which they supposed they formerly possessed, but which they had never exercised except in the one unfortunate instance—to be preserved as a corporate body. This Mr. Towne objected to, and preferring to see the local board in existence exercising powers over the whole area rather than the town council with only power over a more limited district, he, previous to the bill being passed for the third time in the House of Lords, presented a petition to be heard in opposition to its passing. The session being so near its close there was no time to refer the bill to a special committee; and, to save the remainder of the bill, the Government struck out the objectionable clause, and the town is thus left without a governing body. The town council, however, though not a legal body, continue to exercise their former authority, though on their own responsibility, and steps are being taken by two sections of the inhabitants to remedy the present state of confusion—the one to render the town council a legal body, and the other to abolish the council and to reinvest the local board with the government of the town.

LAW AND CRIME.

It is curious to note how little our legislators appear to know the practical operation of the law in its most ordinary channels. Among the Acts of last Session we find one to amend the Bills of Sale Act of 1854. The new Act simply provides for the re-registration every five years of valid bills of sale. So that the attention of the Legislature has been called to this subject with a view to the further protection of the holders of such instruments, and this protection has been accorded. The original Act is designated "An Act for Preventing Frauds upon Creditors by Secret Bills of Sale of Personal Chattels." In effect, as every lawyer knows, a bill of sale is, in at least nine cases out of ten, the last-mentioned Act notwithstanding, a fraud upon creditors. Respectable solicitors have been known to refuse to be in any way concerned in the preparation of such documents. They are used, to a great extent, by persons who by their means carry on business as usurers and furniture-dealers. These persons fit up houses for immoral customers, charge enormously for the goods supplied, and if not satisfied quickly reclaim the entire of the chattels, put them up to sale among confederates, charging the costs of possession and sale, in addition to the profits received in the interim. A bill of sale, in the vast majority of cases, is nothing better than a swindle or a collusion. When not given under some such circumstances as those we have indicated, it is ordinarily executed to defraud creditors, and the registration by no means prevents the operation of such a fraud. So well is this known, that a bill of sale (registration notwithstanding) is not allowed to hold good against an assignee in bankruptcy, unless possession has been previously taken. This possession may, however, be quite a secret transaction. The proper legislation in reference to bills of sale—and we write almost confidently that this view must and will be hereafter adopted—is to render them entirely illegal. Every bill of sale, without exception, is a preferential security to a creditor. In all cases it is in this respect, if not otherwise, fraudulent. All goods and effects found in the house of an insolvent person should be taken as belonging to him, if they have been so apparently his as to lead others to give him credit. The only protection, as in the case of a tenant of furnished apartments, should be the name of the rightful owner upon the outer door, exhibited as a notice to the world.

Another Act of general importance provides for the payment in cases of felony and of certain misdemeanours of the expenses of prosecuting the same before the examining magistrate. These expenses are payable whether a committal for trial is ordered or not, if the prosecution be bona fide.

The constitution and government of the metropolitan police force is a matter urgently requiring serious attention. It was never intended, at the foundation of the system, that it should be entirely controlled by a single, absolute, irresponsible head. At first we had commissioners of police, but when one of these died he was not replaced, and now we have only one, Sir Richard Mayne, who seems rather to dictate to than be directed by the Home Secretary. Sir Richard frames laws, occasionally absurd enough, as in the case of his prohibiting cabmen from smoking while waiting (may be for hours) upon the ranks in hope of a fare. Certain duties are imposed upon the commissioners and systematically neglected, as in the case of the lists of cab fares. The lists are usually posted where they are invisible by night—they are torn and not replaced, and they do not include the new routes, stands, bridges, and railway stations established during recent years. But it seems now that the police authorities, not content with simple dereliction, take it upon themselves to contravene the law. This fact came out on an application to Mr. Selfe at Westminster. A patient had died of cholera at Chelsea, and the vestry of the parish directed an undertaker to remove the body. Half a dozen men resisted the removal, and the vestry clerk applied to the magistrate for the assistance of the police. Mr. Selfe replied that he could not take upon himself to give orders or instructions to the police, but they might be "consulted." An order was then applied for, and granted by the magistrate, for the removal of the body, and Mr. Selfe thought that upon that order (granted under express statutory power) the assistance of the police might be asked for. But a police-inspector produced the police order-book, containing a command to the police not to interfere summarily in cholera cases. Hereupon Mr. Selfe is reported to have expressed the greatest surprise, saying he could not understand such an order unless there was a power above the law. "The parish officers were as much appointed by Act of Parliament as the police themselves, and the assistance of the latter ought to be rendered. While these frivolous discussions were going on there might be a pestilence raging in the neighbourhood." There is something very anomalous in a so-called public magistrate having no power or authority over the police. Constantly cases occur in which policemen are convicted in open court upon the clearest testimony of malfeasance, of undue violence, and of perjury. In such cases it is common for the magistrate who has heard the complaint, examined the witnesses, and decided upon the merits, to refer the conduct of the constable to "the police commissioners"—in other words, to Sir Richard Mayne, who is not supposed to have received a judicial education, who has no power to administer an oath or to hold a court, and who is practically responsible to nobody. Why should not every stipendiary magistrate be, *ex officio*, a commissioner of police, with full power to dismiss summarily any constable plainly convicted of unfitness for his office? A power of appeal to the quarter sessions might be given as a check upon magisterial decisions.

Two persons were heavily fined (one in £50 and the other in £33) for publishing pirated photographs of pictures and engravings. Hereupon some discussion has arisen in the columns of a contemporary, who suggests that the cheap reproduction of pictures furnishes a means of art-education to the humbler classes. To which Messrs. Graves reply, with good reason, that photographs cannot translate paintings, and that the spurious reproduction of engravings, made at the cost of dealers who have also paid for the copyright of pictures, is dishonest.

BANKRUPTCY COURT.

REMARKABLE CASE.—IN RE C. POLLARD.—This was an application on behalf of a creditor for an order to vacate the registration of an insolvency deed executed by the debtor, who was a licensed victualler in the Strand, on the ground that the necessary majority of the creditors had not been obtained.

Mr. Doria appeared in support of the application, and Mr. Dunn for the debtor contra.

In opposition to the deed, it was alleged that one of the debtors inserted in the statement filed pursuant to the rules was fictitious; and John Greatwood, a professed cook, the person who had executed the deed as an assenting creditor for £190, swore that no debt whatever was due to him. The debtor adhered to his original statement that he owed Greatwood £190 for salary, at the rate of £10 per week; and the evidence generally was very conflicting.

His Honour reserved judgment.

POLICE.

COWARDLY BRUTALITY.—James Barry, a printer, was charged on remand, with violently assaulting Jacques Polake, at the Raglan Music Hall, Gray's Inn-road.

The prosecutor, who appeared weak, and whose forehead was covered with plaster, said that he was in the billiard-room of the Raglan Music Hall, when the defendant and a friend of his (the complainant's) were playing at billiards. His friend had struck a ball, which was about rolling into the pocket, when he pretended to touch it, and push it in. The defendant said that if he did that again he would punch his head. He replied that he should like to see him do it, on which the defendant struck him a violent blow in the face, and he returned the blow. After that he was moving away, when the defendant struck him on the head with the butt end of a billiard-cue. The blow knocked him down, and whilst he was on the ground a companion of the prisoner kicked him on the nose and split it open. He was rendered insensible, and had been under the care of a doctor ever since.

In cross-examination, the complainant stated that he was sober; but he thought the defendant had been drinking. He was certain that he did not touch the ball and did not flip it into the pocket. He had not asked the defendant to give him compensation, nor had he said that he would make the defendant pay for the assault that was inflicted on him whilst he was on the floor.

Dr. Paul, surgeon of the E. division, said he had attended the injured man since the night of the assault. When he first saw him he was in a very weak and exhausted state from loss of blood. He was suffering from concussion of the brain, a wound on the top of the head, and there was also a wound from the forehead down to the nose. The complainant was at one time in danger, but is now recovering and going on well.

Mr. Barker committed the prisoner to the Middlesex Sessions for trial, bail being taken.

SHOPLIFTING.—At Worship-street, Elizabeth Hart, 28, and Ellen Sweeney, 27, of Featherstone-street, City-road, dressmakers, were charged with shoplifting.

Mr. B. J. Abbott appeared for Hart, and Mr. G. O. Nash for Sweeney.

The prisoners, one of whom wore a gold watch and chain and several rings, entered the furnishing warehouse of Mr. Jackson, a draper and furnisher, in High-street, Shoreditch, and bought a few yards of bed-ticking, sitting in chairs at the top of the shop while being served. They next asked for some coloured binding, of which they also bought a few yards; and then for some union for window-blinds. To get them these, Francis Morgan, the salesman, was obliged to leave them by themselves for a few minutes, and each time missed a large parcel off a fixture or rack in front of the counter. He felt sure the prisoners must have taken the parcels; and, while making out the bill for what they had bought, amounting to 7s. 9d., he sent out a boy to Horne, 142 H, to watch them. Horne saw them come out, followed by Morgan, and at eight or nine yards from the shop stopped them and asked them to go back, as it was suspected they had property about them they had no right to. Both women indignantly denied it; but at last they returned. Horne tried to keep them separate, but on entering the shop they would get close together, and Hart then, with some jerking, forced down a package from her left side on to the floor. Sweeney pressed close to Hart, and on the salesman saying they must have another package, Sweeney kept shuffling and shaking her dress, but the parcel was so large that she could not release it for several seconds, when it also fell from beneath her crinoline on to the floor. The packages, which were wrapped in paper, were more than 2 ft. long and 5 in. thick, and contained thirteen pairs of leno window curtains, worth £6 18s. On finding herself detected Sweeney offered to pay the full value of both parcels if she were allowed to go, but Mr. Jackson said he had lost fully £20 worth of goods in a similar way that week, and gave the prisoners into custody, it being found the address they gave was false.

Inspector Broad produced a certificate, from the Female Convict Prison at Fulham, of Sweeney's conviction at Norwich, in October, 1862, for stealing a quantity of silk, when she was sentenced to three years' penal servitude, certain marks upon her corresponding with those described in the certificate, and Read, 150 H, proved another conviction against her, in the name of Charlotte Hughes, at the Surrey Sessions, in July, 1856, when she was indicted for stealing thirty-three yards of stuff for dresses, and sentenced to six months' hard labour.

Mr. Abbott was instructed that Hart was never in custody before, and that she had merely carried one of the parcels to oblige Sweeney.

Mr. Cooke hardly thought that, even so, she would oblige her by carrying it under her clothes for her.

Mr. Nash said Sweeney, who is a married woman, was very near her confinement; and, as it had been held in many cases that women in such a state of health could not reasonably be held answerable for their actions, he was instructed it was so with her.

Mr. Cooke said that was a very proper defence for a jury, and could be urged at the trial.

Mr. Cooke committed both prisoners for trial, refusing bail for either; and the police gave up the watch and rings, on the application of Mr. Abbott, Inspector Broad stating that the rings were worth about 1s. each, and the watch not much more, as it was a gilt watch, with only three wheels in it.

AN UNEXPECTED EMERGENCY.—I was highly amused at a story told by the captain concerning Lord Grosvenor, who was among his passengers some time since. This nobleman is the eldest son and heir of the Marquis of Westminster, whose fortune is enormous and said to produce the immense sum of £450,000 per annum. He is highly intelligent, and the variety and depth of his information would be considered great even for a commoner. He has travelled extensively in all parts of the world, and it is not long since he returned from a long tour in the United States. While at the west he was one day waiting at a country station for a tardy train, when one of the farmers of the neighbourhood entered into conversation with him. "Been about these parts considerable stranger?" "Yes, for some length of time." "Like 'em pretty well, eh?" "Yes, pretty well." "How long have ye been here?" "A few weeks." "What's yer business?" "I have no business." "What are you travelling for, then?" "Only for my own pleasure." "Don't yer do any business? How do you get yer livin', then?" "It isn't necessary for me to work for my support. My father is a man of property, and gives me an allowance sufficient for my wants." "But s'pose the old man should die?" "In that case I dare say he'd leave us enough to live upon." "But s'pose he should bust up?" Here the conversation ended, and Lord Grosvenor walked away, evidently struck by a new idea, and one which had never been so forcibly presented to him until now.—*Boston Post.*

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

MONEY having become plentiful and lower in price in all quarters, and the imports of the precious metals having been very extensive, there has been an improved market for National Securities, at enhanced quotations. Consols, for Money, have realised 94 1/2; 3 1/2 per Cent. Annuity, 93 1/2; Reduced and New Three per Cent. Consols, 91 1/2; 4 per Cent. Consols, 92 1/2; 5 per Cent. Consols, 93 1/2; 6 per Cent. Consols, 94 1/2; 7 per Cent. Consols, 95 1/2; 8 per Cent. Consols, 96 1/2; 9 per Cent. Consols, 97 1/2; 10 per Cent. Consols, 98 1/2; 11 per Cent. Consols, 99 1/2; 12 per Cent. Consols, 100 1/2; 13 per Cent. Consols, 101 1/2; 14 per Cent. Consols, 102 1/2; 15 per Cent. Consols, 103 1/2; 16 per Cent. Consols, 104 1/2; 17 per Cent. Consols, 105 1/2; 18 per Cent. Consols, 106 1/2; 19 per Cent. Consols, 107 1/2; 20 per Cent. Consols, 108 1/2; 21 per Cent. Consols, 109 1/2; 22 per Cent. Consols, 110 1/2; 23 per Cent. Consols, 111 1/2; 24 per Cent. Consols, 112 1/2; 25 per Cent. 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BAKER and CRISP'S ANNUAL REDUCTIONS.—Silk, Worsted, and untearable Grenadines, reduced to 3s. 9d.; Gar de Chambray, Plain and printed Alpaca, to Mohairs, Mexican, Japanese, and Norwich Camels, reduced to 6s. 11d.; worth 12s. 9d. Mullins, French Ragones, and Bazarines, 6s. 11d. and 11d. Patterns free.—198, Regent-street, N.B. Crisp.

SPECIAL PURCHASE.—2000 GREBE and OSTRICH FEATHERS.—On One Third the usual Prices—viz. very handsome Feathers, 7s. 11d. to 5s. 6d. each; worth 8s. 6d. to 12s.—CRISP'S (Baker and Crisp's), 198, Regent-street, Post-free for 6d. extra.

GLOVES, from PARIS, GRENOBLE, and ZURICH.—The very best Paris, 2s. 9d. Grenoble, 10s. 6d. half-dozen; Alpine Kid, 12s. 6d. a pair. Sample by post for two extra stamps.—CRISP'S (Baker and Crisp's), 198, Regent-street, N.B.—A lot slightly soiled at 1s. 0d. a pair.

NOTICE.—2000 very best CHENILLE SHAWLS, the largest sizes, fullest fringes, all at 16s. 9d.; cannot be obtained elsewhere under 22s. Samples sent for 1s. extra.
BAKER and CRISP, 198, Regent-street, London.

CRISP'S EARLY AUTUMN FABRICS.
Patterns free.
Wines, Repps, Camlets, Druggies, Japan Cloths, &c.
Largest Variety in the kingdom, at the most Economical Prices, commencing at 8s. 9d. Full Dress.
Crisp's (Baker and Crisp's), 198, Regent-street.

HUMAN HAIR NETS, Six for 1s.
Crocket Ribbon Striped Belt, 1s.
CRISP'S (Baker and Crisp's), 198, Regent-street, London.

HORROCK'S LONG CLOTHS, all at Manufacturers' List Prices, by the piece or half piece.
H. CRISP (Baker and Crisp), 198, Regent-street.

NICHOLSON'S NEW SILKS.
Coloured Glacés, 30 shades, from 1s. 4d. per yard. 500 Patterns post-free. At Nicholson's, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

NICHOLSON'S NEW SILKS.
Checks and Stripes, from 1 guinea a Dress. Reversible. 500 Patterns post-free. At Nicholson's, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

NICHOLSON'S NEW SILKS.
Moire Antiques, Corded Silks, Chéné and Broché Silks, from 2 guineas 500 Patterns free. At Nicholson's, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

NICHOLSON'S BLACK SILKS.
Black Glacés, Gros Grains, Drap de Lyon, Drap de Paris, &c. from 1 guinea a Dress. 500 Patterns post-free. Nicholson's, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

CALICOES,
Flannels, Blankets, Sheetings, and Fancy Dresses, Considerably under present prices.
This Day,
T. SIMPSON and COMPANY, Silk Mercers and General Drapers, 48, 49, 50, and 53, Farringdon-street, City.

TO LADIES LEAVING TOWN.
EXTRAORDINARY BARGAINS.
Real Alpaca Dresses for 12s. 11d. 12 yards; actual value, 12s. 9d. Striped Foulards, 27 in. wide, 8s. 11d. 12 yards; actual value, 12s. A lot of Solid Dresses, in Fifty Patterns, during the season 25s., are reduced to 10s. 11d. Grenadines, Mullins, and Summer Dresses, at one third their value. A lot of Elegant Sateen Jackets, originally 30s., reduced to 10s. 11d. Patterns of these can be sent by post.
An inspection is solicited.
AMOTT and COMPANY, Crystal Warehouses, 61 and 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT SALE.—D. B. JOHNSTONE and CO. of 109 to 112, Holborn, having purchased the STOCK of Mr. Edward Lewis, Hoiler, Glover, &c., of 84, Lombard-street, City, whose premises are disposed of to the Globe Insurance Company, at the Large Discount of 54 per cent off the Cost or Manufacturers' prices, will SELL IT OFF on their own Premises on MONDAY NEXT, SEPT. 5, and following Days. The Stock consists of valuable First-Class Silks and Hosiery; and at the same time will be offered a Manufacturer's Stock of Rich Cloth, Silk and Lace Mantles and Jackets, Made-up Dresses and Petticoats; also, an immense variety of Garbaldies at less than half the usual prices.
The Edge-ware Road Station on the Metropolitan Railway is within a few yards of D. B. Johnstone and Co.'s premises; also within five minutes' walk of the Great Western Railway.
Doors open at Ten, close at Eight; close on Saturdays at Two.

ALPACA POMATUM, 3s. per lb. jars;
1s. 6d. 1/2 lb. jars. Heads of families and schools will find this one of the most and most economical pomades ever introduced. Prepared only by FIEBEE and LUBIN, 2, New Bond-street, London.

BURROW'S GLASSES.—Opera, Race, Field, and Marine, 23 1/2s. 6d., 26s. 6d., &c. Catalogue gratis.
W. and J. BURROW, Malvern.
London: Arnold, 72, Baker-st.; Wales and McCulloch, 56, Cheapside.

KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY, DUBLIN
EXHIBITION, 1885.—This celebrated old Irish Whisky gained the Dublin Prize Medal. It is pure, mild, delicious, and very wholesome. Sold in bottles of 12 and 24 at the retail houses in London; by the agents in the principal towns in England; or wholesale, at 5, Great Windmill-street, London, W.—Observe the red seal, pink label, and branded cork, "Kinahan's LL Whisky."

ALLSOP'S PALE and BURTON ALES.
The above Ales are now being supplied in the finest condition, in Bottles and in Casks, by FINDLATER, MACKIE, TODD, and CO., at their New London Bridge Stores, London Bridge, S.E.

TONIC BITTER'S
WATKES' QUININE WINE,
the most palatable and wholesome bitter in existence, an unequalled tonic, and a gentle stimulant.
Sold by Grocers, Italian Wine-Merchants, and others, at 2s. a dozen. Manufactured by WATKES and WILLIAMS, 2, Martin-lane, Cannon-street, London.
Wholesale Agents, K. Lewis and Co., Worcester.

FIELD'S PATENT SELF-FITTING
CANDLES, from 1s. per lb. upwards, in all sizes.
FIELD'S MARBLE SPERM CANDLES, 1s. per lb.
To be had of all Dealers in Town and Country.

BATHS.—DEANE'S DOMESTIC BATHS.
The Bath Department of Deane and Co.'s Warehouses contains an extensive Stock of Shower, Hip, Plunging, Sponging, Nursery, and every description of Bath for family use. Each article is of the Patent Gas Bath, simple, efficient, and economical. Bath-rooms fitted complete. Deane and Co.'s Catalogue of Baths, with engravings and prices, gratis and post-free.—Deane and Co., 46, King William-street, London Bridge. Established A.D. 1700.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
The Annual Meeting was held on Friday, the 10th inst. Charles Turner, Esq., M.P., in the chair.
The following is an epitome of the Report:—
"The progress of the Company, as respects the amount of business effected, has been satisfactory, the returns of duty published by Parliament, on the motion of the Chairman of this Company, exhibiting by far the largest measure of increase which the Company has ever experienced."
"The total net amount of Fire premium for the year, after deducting guarantees, is £14,733 13s."

"Turning now to the Life Branch, it remains to be reported that the progress has been marked by unchecked success. This will be made clear by one or two statistical positions."
"Taking the four previous quinquennial periods, it is found that the first, from 1845 to 1849 inclusive, commenced with a sum assured for—
Year 1845 of ... £23,349 .. and ended the period with a total sum assured of £272,796

The Second, 1850-54 95,650 .. do. do. 733,408
Do. 1855-59 206,514 .. do. do. 1,655,678
The Third, 1860-64 449,347 .. do. do. 3,439,215
Do. 1865-69 1,000,000 .. do. do. 10,000,000

And now the first year of the fifth life period—viz., 1885—the Company has granted assurances for £286,563, nearly twice the amount at the commencement of the last quinquennial period.
"If, therefore, the result of the total five years, ending in the year 1889, were to have a corresponding increase with the previous period of five years each, the amount of business that would be effected in the quinquennial period now running would be more than has ever been on record in any insurance establishment in this country."

"The Directors have likewise to report that the Life Funds have increased by the sum of £103,146, the accumulated funds of this department now amounting to £740,458. As an addition of, at least, £100,000 per annum to these accumulations during the next ten years may now be fairly expected, it is within reasonable expectation that during this period the Life Funds will approach nearly to £2,000,000 sterling."

"The Directors propose to the Proprietors that a dividend be declared of 3s. per Share and a bonus of 4s. per Share, together 7s. per Share, free of income tax.
"It is a matter of satisfaction to state that, after withdrawing the amount of this dividend and bonus from the profit and loss account, a credit balance will still remain to that account of no less than £28,076 9s., in addition to the reserve fund, which, by the augmentation of the year now, reaches the sum of £116,913 1s. 10d."

This Report was unanimously received.
PERRY, M.D., DOCT. Manager and Actuary.
JOHN B. JOHNSTON, Secretary in London.

PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE,
No. 50, REGENT-STREET, LONDON, W.
Established 1803.

Invested Capital, £1,663,919.
Annual Income, £263,438.
Bonuses Declared, £1,651,167.
Claims paid since the Establishment of the Office, £1,906,452.

PRESIDENT—The Right Honourable Earl Grey.
The Profits, subject to a trifling deduction, are divided among the Insured.

Examples of Bonuses added to Policies issued by THE PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE.

Number of Policy.	Date of Policy.	Annual Premium.	Sum Insured.	Amount with Bonus Addition.
4718	1823	194 15 10	5000	10,832 14 3
3924	1821	165 4 3	5000	10,164 19 0
4937	1824	205 13 4	4000	9,367 2 8
1825	1821	157 1 8	5000	9,263 5 10
8227	1816	125 13 8	4000	8,570 11 3
3944	1821	49 15 10	1000	2,498 7 6
788	1808	29 18 4	1000	3,327 13 5

Insurances may be effected in any part of the kingdom by a letter addressed to the Secretary, No. 50, Regent-street, London, W.

SIX PER CENT GUARANTEED PREFERENCE STOCK.
(Both Principal and Interest Guaranteed.)

THE SCOTTISH AUSTRALIAN INVESTMENT COMPANY (Limited).
(Established in 1849.)
The Directors of this Company are now prepared to receive Applications for Allotments of the Remainder of this Stock, at Par, which will be inscribed on the Books of the Company in the names of the Allottees free of any expense.
The Dividend will begin to accrue from the day when the Stock is paid for.
Forms of Application may be obtained from the National Bank of Scotland and Branches, or from the Secretary of the Company.
By order of the Directors,
C. GRAINGER, Secretary.

Office, 1, King's Arms Yard, Moorgate-street, London, W.
N.B.—The Forty-Seventh Dividend on the £200,000 of Ordinary Stock of the Company, at the rate of 10 per cent per annum, has just been declared.

BENSON, J. W., by Special Appointment to
H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

BENSON'S WATCHES. Prize Medal, 1865.

BENSON'S WATCHES, sent safe by post.

BENSON'S CLOCKS, manufactured by Steam-power.

BENSON'S SILVER and ELECTRO-PLATE. Prize Medals, 1862.

BENSON'S GOLD JEWELLERY, Novel and Artistic.